

Greatest Of All Time

American Literature



Department of English



Dr. M.G.R.
EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
University with Graded Autonomy Status
(An ISO 21001 : 2018 Certified Institution)

Periyar E.V.R. High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai-95. Tamilnadu, India.



108

Greatest of All Time *[American Literature]*

Compiled by:

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Joint Registrar - Languages



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[American Literature]

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John Smith



Captain John Smith (1580–1631) was an English explorer, soldier, and author pivotal in establishing Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English colony in America. As council president (1608–1609), his strict "no work, no eat" policy saved the struggling colony. He is known for mapping the Chesapeake Bay and for his claimed rescue by Pocahontas.

Key Facts About Captain John Smith

- **Early Life & Adventure:** Born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1580, Smith was a restless youth who became a mercenary, fighting in France and the Netherlands before battling the Turks in Hungary, where he was sold into slavery before escaping.
- **Jamestown Leadership:** In 1607, he was part of the Virginia Company expedition to America. He became a leader in the colony, known for disciplining colonists and managing relationships with local Native American tribes through, as he described it, a mix of diplomacy and intimidation.
- **The Pocahontas Legend:** Smith claimed that in 1607, while captured, he was saved from death by Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan.
- **Explorations & Mapping:** He extensively explored and mapped the Chesapeake Bay region and later explored the coast of what he named "New England" in 1614.
- **Author and Promoter:** After a 1609 injury forced his return to England, he wrote extensive accounts of Virginia and New England, promoting further colonization.
- **Survival Lead:** Smith's leadership during the 1608–1609 period reduced the massive mortality rate at Jamestown.

"He That Will Not Worke Shall Not Eate": This famous dictum enforced discipline, ensuring that settlers contributed to building, farming, and safety, according to the [Britannica profile](#).

Legacy: Known as a key figure in early American history, his adventures are recorded in his own writings, such as *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*, though some accounts are debated.

Fore word



Prof Dr CB Palanivelu
Registrar
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Tamil Nadu, INDIA

- "Well done is better than well said" <<< **Benjamin Franklin**
- "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".
<<< **Thoms Jefferson**
- "The essential American soul is hard, isolate, stoic, and a killer. It has never yet melted".
<<< **DH Lawrence**

The United States may be a relatively young country by global standards; American literature does not easily lend itself to classification by time period. Pre-colonial American literature consists primarily of diverse oral traditions from Indigenous cultures before 1607, focusing on nature, spiritual balance, and tribal history rather than written text. These myths, songs, and trickster tales were passed down through generations to teach morals and history. The history of American literature reaches from the oral traditions of Native peoples to the novels, poetry, and drama created in the United States today.

The United States may be a relatively young country by global standards, but American literary history stretches back centuries. Let's take a dive into the history of the main American literary

movements and what they say about the characteristics of American literature.

Long before the arrival of Europeans in the Americas, native people had their own rich culture. The Native American literary tradition comprises oral tradition, folktales, creation stories and other myths that survive in the traditions and stories told by modern-day Native Americans.

With America's declaration of political independence came the call for literary independence, for an American literature that would be independent of (and, implicitly, superior to) British literature. This call for a truly distinctive American literature would be uttered repeatedly for generations, based on the belief that America's distinctive form of government, unique mix of peoples, and geographical grandeur would naturally inspire a unique literary voice.

American literature begins with the orally transmitted myths, legends, tales, and lyrics (always songs) of Indian cultures. There was no written literature among the more than 500 different Indian languages and tribal cultures that existed in North America before the first Europeans arrived. As a result, Native American oral literature is quite diverse. Narratives from quasi-nomadic hunting cultures like the Navajo are different from stories of settled agricultural tribes such as the pueblo-dwelling Acoma; the stories of northern lakeside dwellers such as the Ojibwa often differ radically from stories of desert tribes like the Hopi.

This work presents an authoritative and in-depth assessment of a crucial area within literary studies. Organized primarily in terms of genre, the articles include original research on key concepts, as well as analysis of interesting texts from throughout colonial America. This job is processed by highly-selected 108 literary authorities [108 GOATs in American Literature]. It appears - by going through the Content itself - a very tough job which is completed relatively in an appreciative manner. The job - partially - was commenced by selecting some TEN research scholars from the Department of English of our University and each is allotted three literary personalities. It appears that these scholars did the job assigned to them well.

Some vital and very important information are given in three annexures, which comprehensively provide some historical information - starting from the pre-colonial to the 20th century. In general, it appears that the information arranged and compiled here would serve a very good background material for the students/scholars who intend to study the Americal Literature. I do appreciate the Department of English in bringing out a book offering very research material.

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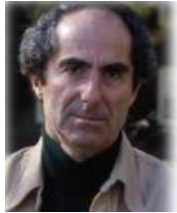
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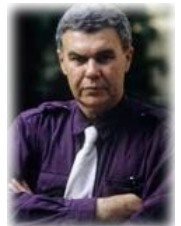
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ANNEXURE

1. Annotated Timeline of the American Literary Development
2. A Brief Overview of American Literary Periods
3. A Look at the American Literary Movements

“Contributions by our Research Scholars (Department of English) as detailed below”

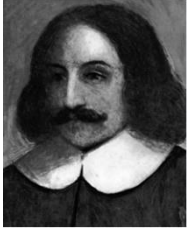
Research Scholars	Global English Personalities	
Ms Sri B >> Reg No. 253313111001	Anne Bradstreet (C.1612-1672)	
	Anne Tyler (1941~~~)	
	Amy Tan (1952~~~)	
Ms Pavithra S >> Reg.No. 25331311003	Harriet wilson (1825-1900)	
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	Sherman alexie (1966 ~~~)	

Ms Sanju R >> Reg.No. 243313111002	Walt Whitman (1819-1892)	
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Jemima Rachel J >> Reg.No. . 243313111001	Edith Wharton (1862-1937)	
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Deborah Priscilla I Reg No. 253313111005	Stephen Crane (1871-1900)	
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	Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)	
Viola Dhill Christina I Reg No. 253313111004	Wilella Sibert Cather (1873-1947)	
	Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)	
	William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)	

Surya kumar A S Reg No. 253313121002	Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)	
	John Cheever (1912-1982)	
	J.d. Salinger (1919-2010)	
Veera ganesh B Reg No. 233313111001	Sylvia Plath (1932-1963)	
	F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)	
	Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)	

Kanmani C S Reg No. 253313111002	Hart Crane (1899-1932)	
	Charles Wright (1935~~~)	
	Mary Oliver (1935-2019)	
Shenbaga Nachiyar C Reg No. 243313111004	Langston Hughes (1902-1967)	
	Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)	
	Ralph Ellison (1913-1994)	



WILLIAM BRADFORD

(1590 - 1657)

"Behold, now, another providence of God. A ship comes into the harbor"



The Manor House, Austerfield



Bradford statue: Mayflower Society House Gardens

Chronology of William Bradford's Life

1590

William Bradford is born and then baptized on March 19 in Austerfield, Yorkshire, England.

1602

William Bradford becomes a regular attender at Puritan and Separatist meetings, coming under the influence of William Brewster and John Robinson of the Scrooby Separatist Congregation.

1608

The Scrooby Separatists begin to leave England and settle in Holland.

1609

William Bradford joins the Scrooby Separatists in Amsterdam.

1613

William Bradford marries Dorothy May.

1620

The *Mayflower* Pilgrims voyage to Plymouth. Dorothy May dies.

1621

The first governor of Plymouth, John Carver, dies. William Bradford is elected governor, holding the position (except for 5 years) for the remainder of his life.

1622

Mourt's Relation, based on writings by William Bradford and Edward Winslow among others, is published in London.

1623

William Bradford marries the widow Alice Carpenter Southworth.

1630

William Bradford begins the writings that eventually become *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

1650

William Bradford stops writing *Of Plymouth Plantation*, ending with the year 1646 and adding a current list of the *Mayflower* passengers and their status in the year 1650.

1657

William Bradford dies.



Manor House, Austerfield—presumed birthplace of William Bradford



Signing the Mayflower Compact 1620, a painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris from 1899

Pilgrims

The Pilgrims have become larger than life figures in American history, their story an enduring narrative of America's founding. At Pilgrim Hall Museum, we share monumental paintings depicting key moments in their early history which have become iconic moments in America's history. Many of these paintings, as well as literary depictions of the Pilgrims, tell us more about the times in which they were created than they do about the Pilgrims themselves.

We also share the Pilgrims' own possessions, including objects that came over on the *Mayflower*, to tell the story of the realities of life for those first settlers and their native Wampanoag neighbors. That story, the Pilgrim Story, is an amazing tale of commitment, cooperation, and courage in the face of adversity – and it really did happen!

We invite you to explore **The Pilgrim Story**.

You may go directly to personal information about individual Pilgrims by visiting **Passenger Biographies**.

Quotable QUOTES

- God be praised, we had a good day and found much joy in the presence of the Lord.
- All great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courage.
- They suffered much from cold and lack of shelter during the first winter.
- Many died within months of arrival, yet the rest pressed forward.
- A governor must lead with justice, humility, and care for the common good.
- Laws should reflect both civil order and moral truth.
- They cared for one another as members of one body.
- In times of need, no one was left alone.
- After a long and dangerous voyage, they arrived safely in New England.
- The sea was fierce, but their resolve was stronger.

Kindly visit the following for MORE information:

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/26830>
- 02] <https://mayflowerhistory.com/bradford-william>
- 03] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Bradford-Plymouth-colony-governor>
- 04] https://pilgrimhall.org/william_bradford.htm
- 05] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/william-bradford-poems>
- 06] <https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/who-were-the-pilgrims/2020/march/william-bradford/>
- 07] <https://austerfieldstudycentre.co.uk/william-bradford/>
- 08] <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/bradfords-manuscript-of-plimoth-plantation>
- 09] <https://mayflower.americanancestors.org/william-bradford-biography>
- 10] <https://themayflowersociety.org/passenger-profile/passenger-profiles/the-bradford-family/>

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ANNE BRADSTREET

(C.1612-1672)

"If we had no winter, the spring would
not be so pleasant."

Compiled by:

Sri B <::> Reg No. 253313111001

Elements of Feminism in *The Prologue*

'*The Prologue*' by Anne Bradstreet is a poem often about the celebration of women writers of 17th century Europe. The poet acts as a representative of the women writers of her time. What she says in the poem is not solely her problem. It is with all the women artists of the age. They had the same literary merits as their male counterparts. Still, the laurel of recognition found a cozy went to the male writers. While thinking about it the poet somehow feels a little dejected about the patriarchal society. The tone of the poet reflects that of a proto-feminist. Her voice is mild yet forceful. The grace of her appeal reflects her literary merit. That's why she says, "It is but vain unjustly to wage war./ Men can do best, and Women know it well."

However, the poet raises the issues of women. In her personal notes, she captures the mindset of society with women. The poet says, "I am obnoxious to each carping tongue/ Who says my hand a needle better fits." In this way, she wages an indirect protest against all the prejudices that put the better half of the human race behind the curtains of their rooms. This pen of the poet wrote for those who didn't get enough recognition for their gender. She attacks the basis of gender conception as well as the unequal treatment of women in the literary circle. Apart from that she also celebrates her womanhood in the last two lines of the poem, "This mean and unrefined ore of mine/ Will make your glist'ring gold but more to shine."

Videos

01] *the Prologue by Anne Bradstreet - Summary*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asZPYHDJUdw> [10:45]

02] *Prologue by Anne Bradstreet Summary in Tamil*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLB_CJfAtu4 [15:06]

Kindly visit these Web Pages for MORE information

01] <https://poemanalysis.com/anne-bradstreet/biography/>

02] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/anne-bradstreet-poems>

- 03] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Anne-Bradstreet>
04] <https://poets.org/poet/anne-bradstreet>
05] <https://theimaginativeconservative.org/2024/03/america-first-poet-anne-bradstreet-progressive-conservative-jeremy-johnston.html>
06] <https://wams.nyhistory.org/early-encounters/english-colonies/anne-bradstreet-mourning-poetry/#resource>
07] <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199827251/obo-9780199827251-0092.xml>
08] <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2005/05/anne-bradstreet-html>
09] <https://archive.vcu.edu/english/engweb/webtexts/Bradstreet/bradbio.htm>

Quintessential Quotable QUOTES

- ❖ 'I am obnoxious to each carping tongue Who says my hand a needle better fits. A Poet's Pen all scorn I should thus wrong, For such despite they cast on female wits.'
- ❖ 'Let Greeks be Greeks, and Women what they are. Men have precedency and still excel; It is but vain unjustly to wage war. Men can do best, and Women know it well. Preeminence in all and each is yours; Yet grant some small acknowledgement of ours.'
- ❖ 'Thou ill-formed offspring of my feeble brain, Who after birth didst by my side remain, Till snatched from thence by friends, less wise than true, Who thee abroad, exposed to public view'.
- ❖ 'I stretched thy joints to make thee even feet, Yet still thou run'st more hobbling than is meet'.
- ❖ 'If for thy father asked, say thou hadst none; And for thy mother, she alas is poor, Which caused her thus to send thee out of door.'
- ❖ Authority without wisdom is like a heavy ax without an edge, fitter to bruise than polish.
- ❖ A prosperous state makes a secure Christian, but adversity makes him Consider.
- ❖ If what I do prove well, it won't advance. They'll say it's stolen, or else it was by chance.

For more QUOTES, kindly visit the following Web Pages:

- 01] <https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-bradstreet-poems/study-guide/quotes>
02] https://www.azquotes.com/author/1789-Anne_Bradstreet

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Key aspects of her Legacy

- **Pioneering Poet:** The first writer in the North American colonies to be published, earning recognition in England with *The Tenth Muse* (1650).
- **Voice of Puritan Womanhood:** Her poems offered a rare, intimate glimpse into the life of a Puritan woman, navigating faith, family, and societal expectations.
- **Feminist Precursor:** Her candid exploration of female experience and subtle rejection of intellectual inferiority (e.g., "They'll say my hand a needle better fits") paved the way for later feminist literary traditions.
- **Literary Foundation:** Her work helped establish the American literary canon and demonstrated the potential for English verse in the New World.
- **Enduring Themes:** Her honest portrayal of life, death, faith, and doubt, even in personal prose like *Meditations Divine and Morall*, remains compelling and relevant, attracting modern critical study (e.g., queer theory, ecocriticism).
- **Development as a Writer:** Her poetry shows a significant evolution from more public, traditional forms to deeply personal expressions of her own unique perspective as a wife, mother, and conflicted Christian, notes Oxford Research Encyclopaedias.

Some Interesting Videos

01] Finding Anne Bradstreet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJ6HDDM5pJQ> [1:31:53]

02] Anne Bradstreet: An Introduction to her Poetry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWnT3rdZ94Q> [53:21]

03] Anne Bradstreet || The First Female Published Poetess In The America's!

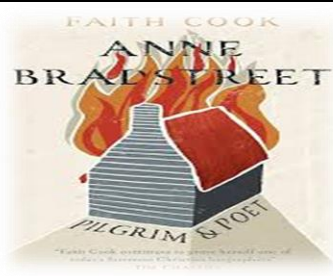
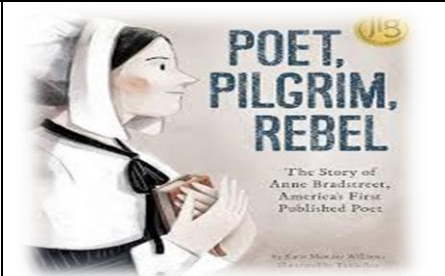
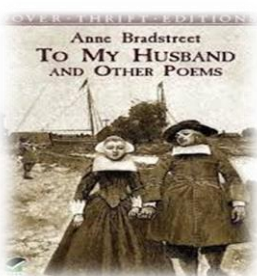
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le6MkSOD0yg> [41:31]

04] Anne Bradstreet Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony - 06.01.2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VWVWX0bi2E> [58:04]

05] Anne Bradstreet - Poetry Contest 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muoyDZpP-78> [1:16:32]



<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/6854/pg6854-images.html>

Salem Witch Trials

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salem_witch_trials



The **Salem witch trials** were a series of hearings and prosecutions of people accused of [witchcraft](#) in [colonial Massachusetts](#) between February 1692 and May 1693. More than 200 people were accused. Thirty people were found guilty, nineteen of whom were executed by [hanging](#) (fourteen women and five men). One other man, [Giles Corey](#), died under [torture](#) after refusing to enter a [plea](#), and at least five people died in the disease-ridden jails without trial.

Although the accusations began in Salem Village (known today as [Danvers](#)), accusations and arrests were made in numerous towns beyond the village notably in [Andover](#) and [Topsfield](#). The residency of many of the accused is now unknown; around 151 of those people are able to be traced back to twenty-five different New England communities. The grand juries and trials for this [capital crime](#) were conducted by a Court of [Oyer and Terminer](#) in 1692 and by a [Superior Court of Judicature](#) in 1693, both held in [Salem Town](#) (the regional center for Salem Village), where the hangings also took place. It was the deadliest [witch hunt](#) in the history of colonial North America. Fourteen other women and two men were executed in Massachusetts and Connecticut during the 17th century. The Salem witch trials only came to an end when serious doubts began to arise among leading clergymen about the validity of the [spectral evidence](#) that had been used to justify so many of the convictions, and due to the sheer number of those accused, "including several prominent citizens of the colony".

In the years after the trials, "several of the accusers – mostly teen-age girls – admitted that they had fabricated their charges." In 1702, the General Court of Massachusetts declared the trials "unlawful", and in 1711 the colonial legislature annulled the convictions, passing a bill "mentioning 22 individuals by name" and reversing their [attainders](#).

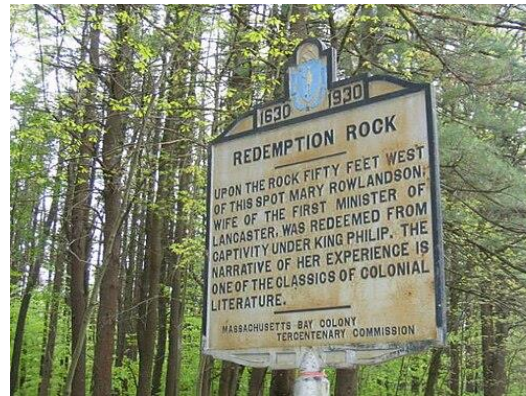


MARY ROWLANDSON (C.1635-C.1678)

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted."



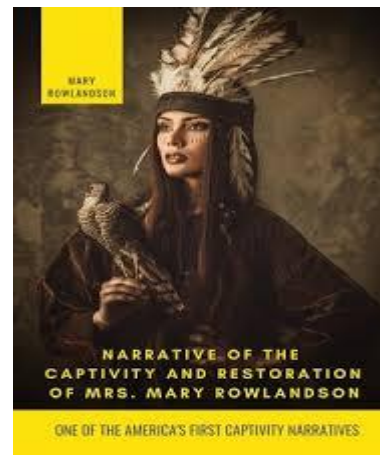
Site of Rowlandson's capture
(Lancaster, Massachusetts)



Historical marker in Princeton,
Massachusetts, commemorating
Rowlandson's release



Mary Rowlandson and her children
after being
taken captive by Native Americans



Kindly visit these Web Pages for MORE information

- 01] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Rowlandson
- 02] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mary-Rowlandson>
- 03] <https://www.learner.org/series/american-passages-a-literary-survey/utopian-promise/mary-rowlandson-c-1636-1711/>

- 04] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Narrative_of_the_Captivity_and_Restoration_of_Mrs._Mary_Rowlandson
- 05] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/142495.Mary_Rowlandson
- 06] <https://www.timetoast.com/timelines/mary-rpwlndson>
- 07] <https://minnstate.pressbooks.pub/ushistory1/chapter/mary-rowlandson-captivity-narrative-1676/>
- 08] <https://www.masshist.org/bee hiveblog/2013/02/mary-rowlandsons-dolefullest-day/>
- 09] <https://prezi.com/y3y33emaug1z/english-iii-mary-rowlandson-timeline/>
- 10] <https://quotationsbywomen.com/authorq/26843/>
- @@@@@@@@@@@

Key Aspects of Her Profile:

- **Early Life & Family:** Born in England, she immigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony as a child with her family, settling in Lancaster, Massachusetts, where she married Puritan minister [Joseph Rowlandson](#) in 1656.
- **The Captivity (1676):** During King Philip's War, Native American forces attacked Lancaster, burning her home and taking her captive, along with her children, though her youngest daughter died during captivity.
- **Her Narrative (1682):** Her published account, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, vividly describes her traumatic experiences, interpreting them through a Puritan lens of divine providence, sin, and redemption, and remains a crucial text for understanding colonial life and Native American relations.
- **Literary Significance:** Her work is celebrated as a foundational American literary text, a landmark in the captivity narrative genre, and one of the earliest American "bestsellers," offering insights into gender, religion, and colonial history.
- **Later Life:** After being ransomed, she lived in various places, eventually marrying again and passing away in 1711, but her legacy rests primarily on her powerful narrative of survival and faith.

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Some Videos

01] Cruel or courageous? A new reading of Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgaFZVC9tyg> [1:37:02]

02] Mary Rowlandson's Story: The Popularity of Captivity Narratives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CovajWtx1iQ> [45:42]

03] Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson by Mary White ROWLANDSON

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUS1-BxoVE4> [1:52:14]

04] Mary Rowlandson Captured by Indians

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I1ot1KWlGU> [58:34]

05] NARRATIVE OF THE CAPTIVITY AND RESTORATION OF MRS. MARY ROWLANDSON. Audiobook, full length

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnuWKOFQjJ4> [1:49:25]

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Mary Rowlandson

Mary White Rowlandson was a colonial American woman whose life was significantly marked by her experience of captivity during King Philip's War in 1676. Born in 1639 to Puritan immigrants in Massachusetts, she became a minister's wife and mother in the frontier village of Lancaster. Rowlandson was captured during a violent attack on her home and spent eleven weeks in captivity among Algonquian tribes. Her ordeal was both traumatic and transformative, leading her to reflect deeply on her faith and the nature of her captors.

After her ransom in 1676, she documented her experiences in a narrative titled **The Sovereignty and Goodness of God**, published in 1682. This work is notable for being one of the first American captivity narratives and has been the subject of extensive analysis for its insights into Puritan beliefs, early colonial life, and the complex dynamics between European settlers and Native Americans. Rowlandson's account, rich in biblical references, reveals her struggle to find meaning and divine insight amidst suffering. Her narrative has garnered attention from various scholarly perspectives, exemplifying its lasting impact and relevance in discussions of gender, religion, and colonial history.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@



EDWARD TAYLOR

(C.1644-1729)

*"Make me, o lord, thy spinning wheel complete,
thy holy word thy distaff make for me."*

Kindly visit these Web Pages for MORE information

- 01] <https://faculty.georgetown.edu/bassr/heath/syllabuild/iguide/taylor.html>
- 02] <https://archive.org/details/poemsofedwardtay00tayl>
- 03] <https://allpoetry.com/Edward-Taylor>
- 04] <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/edward-taylor>
- 05] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-Taylor>
- 06] <https://www.learner.org/series/american-passages-a-literary-survey/utopian-promise/edward-taylor-c-1642-1729/>
- 07] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/edward-taylor>
- 08] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Taylor
- 09] <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/11/resources/11408>
- 10] <https://artandtheology.org/2021/03/03/what-love-is-this-by-edward-taylor/>

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Puritanism

A religious reform movement in the late 16th and 17th centuries that sought to “purify” the Church of England of remnants of the Roman Catholic “popery” that the Puritans claimed had been retained after the religious settlement reached early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Puritans became noted in the 17th century for a spirit of moral and religious earnestness that informed their whole way of life, and they sought through church reform to make their lifestyle the pattern for the whole nation. Their efforts to transform the nation contributed both to civil war in England and to the founding of colonies in America as working models of the Puritan way of life.

"What Love Is This"

“What love is this of thine, that cannot be
In thine infinity, O Lord, confined,
Unless it in thy very person see
Infinity and finity conjoin'd?
What! hath thy Godhead, as not satisfied,
Married our manhood, making it its bride?

Oh matchless love! filling heaven to the brim!
O'errunning it: all running o'er beside
This world! Nay, overflowing hell, wherein,
For thine elect, there rose a mighty tide!
That there our veins might through thy person bleed,
To quench those flames that else would on us feed.

Oh! that thy love might overflow my heart!
To fire the same with love: for love I would.
But oh! my straight'ned breast! my lifeless spark!
My fireless flame! What chilly love, and cold?
In measure small! In manner chilly! See.
Lord, blow the coal: thy love enflame in me.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Quotable QUOTES

- ❖ It's food too fine for angels, yet come, take and eat thy fill!
- ❖ There's an unexpectedly high share of workers still in agriculture, ..
That's like a fault line.
- ❖ It may be that Emerson is going to hell, but of one thing I am certain;
he will change the climate there, and emigration will set that way.
- ❖ Come, eate thy fill of this thy God's white loaf. It's food too fine for
Angels, yet come, take and eate thy fill. It's Heaven's Sugar Cake.

Videos

01] Westfield Wednesday's The Reverend Edward Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTwHE7ZF2wY> [1:14:11]

02] Edward Taylor, *Huswifery*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwHoDtUumbI> [16:39]

03] Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor Poetry Notes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Wdb6nHTEw0> [16:23]

Musical Settings

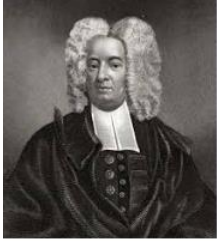
[Gerald Finzi](#) made two settings from Taylor's *Meditations*. The first (op. 27.1) was the final stanza of Meditation 12, "Glorious in his apparel", which was composed as a marriage anthem for his sister-in-law in September 1946. The second (op. 27.2) was a setting of two internal stanzas from Meditation 20, "God is gone up with a triumphant shout", commissioned for the 1951 St. Cecilia Festival Service at [St Sepulchre's Church, Holborn](#).

Two settings have been made of Taylor's poem "Huswifery". That by Richard K. Winslow (b.1918) for chorus and piano was the winner of the American Music Competition of the [Sigma Alpha Iota](#) music fraternity in 1950. It was later set for [a cappella](#) chorus by [Gordon Binkerd](#) in 1970. Binkerd had earlier set "The Ebb and Flow" for a cappella chorus in 1966. In addition, the meditation "What Love Is This" was set as [an anthem for four-part chorus and organ](#) by Timothy Hoekman in 1978.

Publications

Articles

- Taylor, E 2022, '[Poemata on Affairs of State: Political Satire in Latin in Later Stuart Britain, 1658–1714](#)', *The Seventeenth Century*, vol. 37, no. 4, pp. 591-619. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0268117x.2021.1963826>
- Taylor, E 2022, '[Jacobites and Latin Verse, 1688–1702](#)', *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, vol. 45, no. 4, pp. 407-426. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1754-0208.12827>
- Taylor, E 2022, '[Our Masters the Commons Begin Now to Roar](#)': *Parliament in Scribal Verse, 1621–81*', *Parliamentary History*, vol. 41, no. 1, pp. 37-61. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1750-0206.12606>
- Taylor, E 2020, '[John Tutchin's Observator, Comment Serials, and the 'Rage of Party' in Britain, 1678 – c. 1730](#)', *The Historical Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0018246x19000451>
- Taylor, E 2018, '[The 'Continuation' of the Thomason Tracts? The British Museum's 'Political Tracts' Series of Pamphlets Relating to English Political History, 1542–1807](#)', *Electronic British Library Journal*.



COTTON MATHER

(1663-1728)

"Religion brought forth Prosperity, and the daughter destroyed the mother"



Mather lived on [Hanover Street, Boston, 1688-1718](#)



The Mather tomb in [Copp's Hill Cemetery in Boston, Massachusetts](#)



Fanciful representation of the Salem witch trials, [lithograph](#) from 1892



Popular Culture

- [Marvel Comics](#) features a [supervillain](#) character named Cotton Mather with alias name, 'Witch-Slayer', that is an enemy of [Spider-Man](#).
- The rock band [Cotton Mather](#) is named after Mather.
- [Howard da Silva](#) portrayed Mather in *Burn, Witch, Burn*, a December 15, 1975 episode of the [CBS Radio Mystery Theater](#).
- One of the stories in [Richard Brautigan](#)'s collection [Revenge of the Lawn](#) is called "1692 Cotton Mather Newsreel".
- Seth Gabel portrays Cotton Mather in the TV series *Salem*, which aired from 2014 to 2017.

Kindly visit these Web Pages for MORE information

- 01] https://salem.lib.virginia.edu/people/c_mather.html
- 02] <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/cotton-mather>
- 03] <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/who-was-cotton-mather-2019-10/>
- 04] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cotton-Mather>
- 05] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotton_Mather
- 06] <https://famous-trials.com/salem/2037-sal-bmat>
- 07] <https://www.congregationallibrary.org/cotton-mather-bib>
- 08] <https://www.modernreformation.org/resources/articles/the-guilt-heavy-theology-of-cotton-mather>

Some Videos

- 01] Cotton Mather
<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0558440/> [4 Movies]
- 02] Cotton Mather and the Salem Witch Trials: Separating Fact from Fiction
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3U-qfCcvPQ [1:05:53]
- 03] New Light on Cotton Mather
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXrjM0zLoIY> [56:32]
- 04] Lifelong Learning Lecture Series: Cotton Mather: A Man of Two Worlds
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oc0-TIRf7to> [1:16:24]
- 05] A Family Well-Ordered - Puritan Cotton Mather (1663 - 1728)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Phboz7RI7_s [1:24:38]
- 06] 376 Cotton Mather's Spanish Lessons
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Az8U5nySvoI> [1:04:41]
- 07] Cotton Mather and the Women He Loved
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Cl5YP_WJOU [57:19]

His Books

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/33376>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/82864.Cotton_Mather
- 03] <https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Math%20er%20Cotton%201663%201728>
- 04] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/cotton-mather/255388/?srsltid=AfmBOouNwz_IcWGW9BSQAtnhoU9VEWp_6W81IX2dB8A5iwb5T4iX4-z

Diary and Personal Documents

<https://congregationallibrary.quartexcollections.com/manuscript-collections/browse-the-cotton-mather-diary-and-personal-documents>

Rev. Cotton Mather (1663-1728), son of Increase Mather and Maria Cotton, was born February 12, 1663 in the city of Boston in Massachusetts Bay Colony. He attended Boston Latin School and Harvard, graduating in 1678. He was ordained May 13, 1684 at Second Church in Boston, also known as "Old North" Church or "the Church of the Mathers", where he served with his father, Increase (1639 O.S. - 1723 O.S.). Rev. Mather was married three times (first to Abigail Phillips of Charlestown, second to Elizabeth Hubbard, and third to Lydia George) and had 15 children, six of whom lived to adulthood. Cotton was also a prolific author, publishing some 280 distinct items. He is perhaps best remembered today for his endorsement of inoculation as a means of fighting smallpox, and for his persecutory role in the Salem witchcraft trials. Rev. Mather died on February 23, 1728. The digital collections below include a portion of Rev. Mather's diary entries from 1716, an essay directed at his son Samuel with advice on attending college, and a listing of marriages which Rev. Mather performed, dated 1717.

Also, kindly visit:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/da/Diary_of_Cotton_Mather%2C_1681-1724_%28IA_cu31924092202500%29.pdf

Some Aspects of his FAME

- **Salem Witch Trials:** He's infamous for his writings defending the trials, particularly using "spectral evidence," though he wasn't directly involved in the court.
- **Prolific Author:** He wrote over 400 works, including [*Magnalia Christi Americana*](#), a significant history of New England, and detailed biblical commentaries.
- **Science & Medicine:** He promoted experimental science and was a key advocate for variolation (a precursor to vaccination) for smallpox, a method he learned from his enslaved servant.
- **Puritan Leader:** He was a prominent minister at Boston's North Church, striving to uphold Puritan values as New England became more secular.
- **Complex Figure:** Mather embodies the contradictions of his era, supporting superstition (witchcraft) while embracing modern science, making him a polarizing historical figure.



JONATHAN EDWARDS

(1703-1758)

"When God is about to do a mighty new thing, He always sets His people praying."

Kindly visit these Web Pages for MORE information

- 01] <https://www.bu.edu/missiology/missionary-biography/e-f/edwards-jonathan-1703-1758/>
- 02] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jonathan-Edwards>
- 03] https://banneroftruth.org/us/about/banner-authors/jonathan-edwards/?srsId=AfmBOoqG_Mp3j9LtMWS1dIjILGxrXYig1h2D02dasFEbov15QerZ-Y6c
- 04] <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jonathan-Edwards.html>
- 05] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Edwards_\(theologian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Edwards_(theologian))
- 06] <https://ccel.org/ccel/edwards>
- 07] <https://www.apuritansmind.com/puritan-favorites/jonathan-edwards/>
- 08] <https://churchandfamilylife.com/resources/60ca813423fa965169a3cd9f>
- 09] <https://www.tenth.org/resource-library/articles/jonathan-edwards-theology-for-the-glory-of-god/>
- 10] <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/edwards/>

His Sermons

The text of many of Edwards's sermons have been preserved, some are still published and read today among general anthologies of American literature. Among his more well-known sermons are:

- ["The Justice of God in the Damnation of Sinners"](#)
- "The Manner of Seeking Salvation"
- "Pressing into the Kingdom of God"
- ["Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"](#)
 - "The Folly Of Looking Back In Fleeing Out Of Sodom"

Videos

01] Jonathan Edwards: The Life, the Man, and the Legacy | Iain Murray
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcdBIwgV9pE> [1:08:18]

02] Jonathan Edwards and the Supremacy of God in All Things |
SKETCHES FROM CHURCH HISTORY: PART III
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HNejr3PiZc> [53:41]

03] @Matthew Everhard and the Jonathan Edwards Study Bible : The
Theology Pugcast Episode
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcVGw4HfxOo> [1:00:19]

04] The Life & Legacy of Jonathan Edwards
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUwcjhyBbYw> [34:17]

05] Jonathan Edwards: His Life and Writings
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFxk3sfkEEY> [35:24]

BOOKS

01]
<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Edwards%2C%20Jonathan%2C%201703%2D1758>

02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/37133>

03] <https://banneroftruth.org/us/store/theauthor/edwards-jonathan/?srsltid=AfmBOoqVWS4kfvLtEhQgkSJg-ZMgi6eeuC2-O2eTxvJ6RxH6lPnFETi5>

04] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Jonathan-Edwards/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AJonathan%2BEdwards

05] <https://edwardsstudies.com/2016/03/18/top-ten-edwards-books/comment-page-1/>

TOP SEVEN Books on him

However, to get the would-be Edwards reader started, I list here 7 titles that I would recommend.

1. *Jonathan Edwards: A Life* — George Marsden. This is the standard biography of Edwards and I expect it will remain so for many years to come. My *East of Eden* colleague David Owen Filson agrees with me so it must be so.
2. *Jonathan Edwards: A Guided Tour of His Life and Thought* — Stephen J. Nichols. This book is the first book I would read if I have never read Edwards or anything about him. It is clearly written, easily

understood, and covers all the essentials. Stephen is a graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, so it has to be good, right?!

3. *A God-Entranced Vision of All Things: The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards* — John Piper and Justin Taylor, editors. This book is the result of one of the *Desiring God Ministries* pastor's conferences and the various essays are critically appreciative of Edwards.
4. *God's Passion for His Glory: Living the Vision of Jonathan Edwards* — John Piper and Jonathan Edwards. This is one excellent book! Really. I mean it. Nick Batzig, my compadre, thinks this is top notch. John Piper offers a biographical account of how he came to appreciate Edwards and then provides extremely helpful annotated notes to Edwards' *The End for Which God Created the World*.
5. *The Preaching of Jonathan Edwards* — John Carrick. This is a very helpful analysis of Edwards' Puritan plain style preaching.
6. *Charity and Its Fruits: Living in the Light of God's Love* — Kyle Strobel, editor. This is an annotated version of Edwards' series of sermons on 1st Corinthians 13 which culminated in his "Heaven is a World of Love" sermon. Kyle Strobel is a new and up and coming Edwards scholar.
7. *The Theology of Jonathan Edwards* — Michael McClymond and Gerlad McDermott. This is now the standard treatment of Edwards' thought. It is, frankly, a mixed bag. It gets Edwards right on some things and wrong on others. The authors take me to task in a few footnotes, so I am not unbiased.

His Legacy

- **Theological & Intellectual Giant:** Edwards produced extensive writings, including sermons, philosophical notebooks, and treatises, cementing his status as a major theologian influencing American Christianity.
- **The First Great Awakening:** He was central to this religious revival, igniting spiritual fervor with his passionate preaching and challenging nominal faith, as seen in revivals at Northampton.
- **New England Theology:** His work established core doctrines, emphasizing the role of the heart and affections in faith, and exploring concepts like God's sovereignty, human dependence, and spiritual senses, says [Encyclopedia Britannica](#).
- **Prolific & Influential Writer:** His preserved works, particularly at Yale, showcase his depth on theology, philosophy, and history, forming a foundational text for many.
- **Complex & Contradictory Figure:** While a powerful voice for God's majesty, his support for slavery stands in stark contrast to his profound ethical thought, which his own descendants later used to argue for abolition, notes [ResearchGate](#) and *Desiring God*.
- **Lasting Spiritual Impact:** His call for a deeper, God-centered faith continues to inspire Christian thinkers and leaders, though educators must reconcile his brilliance with his historical blind spots, according to [Church & Family Life](#) and *ResearchGate*.



JOHN WOOLMAN

(1720-1772)

"Conduct is more convincing than language."

The Journal of John Woolman

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Journal_of_John_Woolman

The Journal of John Woolman is an [autobiography](#) by [John Woolman](#) which was published posthumously in 1774 by Joseph Crukshank, a Philadelphia [Quaker](#) printer. Woolman's journal is one of the longest continually published books in North America since it has never been out of print.

The Journal adds to his other published works and gives greater evidence to his character as he discusses ideas of [anti-slavery](#) and anti-materialism, as well as discussing power's ability to [corrupt](#). The work also discusses God's divine power and goodness for all on the planet [Earth](#).

The work has remained in print due to its focus on making life simple and the hopeful message of God's divine goodness. Woolman is one of the first early American writers, besides [John Smith](#), who is not a [Puritan](#). Puritans were the most prominent writers in [Colonial America](#), and it was during the time of this publication that writing began to move away from being the exclusive domain of Puritan authors. Woolman's writing is at the forefront of this transition.



The John Woolman Memorial, 99 Branch St., [Mount Holly, New Jersey](#)



[Quaker meeting](#) Quaker meeting, painting c. 1839.

Some Important Web Pages

- 01] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Woolman>
- 02] <https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/62/John-Woolman>
- 03] <https://web.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/commentary/people/woolman.php>
- 04] <https://yorkcivictrust.co.uk/heritage/civic-trust-plaques/john-woolman/>
- 05] <https://www.dev.ngo/revolutionaries/john-woolman/>
- 06] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Woolman

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Some Videos

- 01] **Understanding John Woolman and his Abolitionist Arguments**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7pTm3TKHl4> [53:36]
- 02] **John Woolman (Christian Biographies Retold for Children)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDfo_SFLyjQ [46:35]
- 03] **John Woolman: Early Abolitionist, Pacifist, Spiritual Genius**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jN7La4PsUQ> [32:45]
- 04] **John Woolman; The Uncanonized Saint of Abolitionism: 250 years After**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qIpKwebo5E> [1:01:18]

Quotable QUOTES

- Many slaves on this continent are oppressed, and their cries have reached the ears of the Most High. Such are the purity and certainty of his judgments, that he cannot be partial in our favor.
- My own will and desires were now very much broken, and my heart was with much earnestness turned to the Lord, to whom alone I looked for help in the dangers before me.
- To encourage Children to do Things with a View to get Praise of Men, to me appears an Obstruction to their being inwardly acquainted with the Spirit of Truth.
- I have often felt a motion of love to leave some hints in writing of my experience of the goodness of God, and now, in the thirty-sixth year of my age, I begin this work.
- The Lord had been very gracious, and spoke peace to me in the time of my distress, and I now most ungratefully turned again to folly; at times I felt sharp reproof, but I did not get low enough to cry for help.

Key Aspects of His Legacy:

- **Abolitionism:** He tirelessly worked within Quaker communities to convince them to disavow slavery, influencing many to free their enslaved people and becoming a significant voice against the slave trade.
- **Spiritual & Ethical Living:** Woolman linked spiritual purity with social action, promoting humility, simplicity, and rejecting materialism and wealth accumulation that exploited others.
- **Nonviolence & Anti-Colonialism:** He extended his concerns beyond slavery to oppose war (tax resistance) and the mistreatment of Native Americans, seeing colonial expansion and economic greed as interconnected injustices.
- **Influential Writings:** His *Journal* and essays, like *Some Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes*, are celebrated for their plain, powerful style and moral depth, impacting American literature (Transcendentalists) and social justice movements.
- **Internal Reform:** His core message was that meaningful societal change starts with individual conscience, self-examination, and aligning one's inner life with outward actions, as shown by his own choices, like traveling on foot and wearing undyed clothes.

Online Books by John Woolman

- Woolman, John, 1720-1772: [*Considerations on Keeping Negroes, Recommended to the Professors of Christianity of Every Denomination, Part Second* \(Philadelphia: Printed by B. Franklin and D. Hall, 1762\)](#) (HTML at Evans TCP)
- ⓘ Woolman, John, 1720-1772: [*A Journal of the Life, Gospel Labours, and Christian Experiences of That Faithful Minister of Jesus Christ, John Woolman, Late of Mount-Holly, in the Province of New Jersey* \(Philadelphia: Printed by J. Cruikshank, 1784\)](#) (HTML at Renascence Editions)
- ⓘ Woolman, John, 1720-1772: *A Journal of the Life, Gospel Labours, and Christian Experiences of That Faithful Minister of Jesus Christ, John Woolman, Late of Mount-Holly, in the Province of New Jersey, North America* (Warrington: Printed by T. Hurst, 1840), ed. by James Cropper
 - [multiple formats at archive.org](#)
 - [page images at HathiTrust](#)
- ⓘ Woolman, John, 1720-1772: [*The Journal, With Other Writings of John Woolman* \(London: J. M. Dent; New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., ca. 1922\)](#), contrib. by Vida Dutton Scudder (Gutenberg text)
- ⓘ Woolman, John, 1720-1772: [*Some Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes, Recommended to the Professors of Christianity of Every Denomination* \(Philadelphia: J. Chattin, 1754\)](#) (HTML at Evans TCP)



JUPITER HAMMON

(c.1720-c.1800)

"Let all the time you can get be spent
in trying to learn to read."

His Books

- "[An Evening Thought](#)" (1761)
- "[Untitled](#)" (1770, unpublished)
- "[An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatly](#)" (1778)
- "An Essay on the Ten Virgins" (1779, lost work)
- "A Winter Piece" (1782)
- "A Poem for Children with Thoughts on Death" (1782)
- "An Evening's Improvement" (1783)
- "The Kind Master and Dutiful Servant" (1783)
- "[An Essay on Slavery](#)" (1786, unpublished)
- *An Address to the Negroes in the State of New-York* (1787)

List of Slaves

[Slavery](#) is a social-economic system under which people are enslaved: deprived of personal freedom and forced to perform labor or services without compensation. These people are referred to as slaves, or as enslaved people.

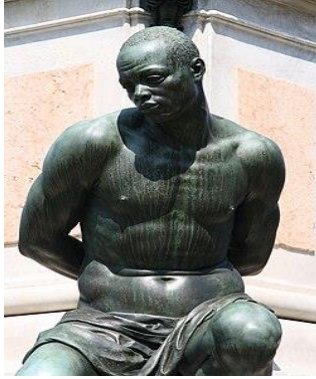
The following is a **list of notable historical people who were enslaved** at some point during their lives, in alphabetical order by [first name](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_slaves

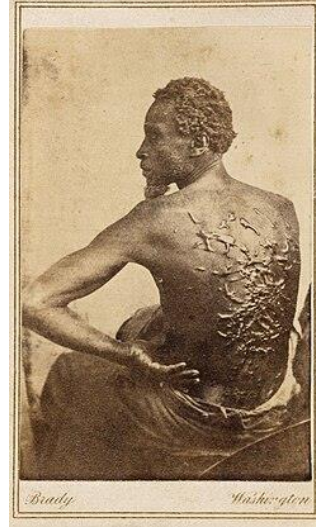
African American literature

African American literature is the body of [literature](#) produced in the United States by writers of African descent. [Phillis Wheatley](#) was an enslaved African woman who became the first African American to publish a book of poetry, which was published in 1773. Her collection was titled *[Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral](#)*. [Olaudah Equiano](#) (c. 1745–1797) was an African man who wrote *[The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano](#)*, an autobiography published in 1789 that became one of the first influential works about the transatlantic slave trade and the experiences of enslaved Africans. His work was published sixteen years after [Phillis Wheatley](#)'s work (c. 1753–1784).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American_literature



One of four statues of chained slaves at the base of the Monument of the Four Moors in Livorno, Italy, whose models may have been actual slaves.



Gordon



Kösem Sultan



Omar ibn Said

Quotable QUOTES

- ❖ If we should ever get to Heaven, we shall find nobody to reproach us for being black, or for being slaves.
- ❖ All the time spent idly, is spent wickedly, and is unfaithfulness to our masters.
- ❖ If there was no Bible, it would be no matter whether you could read or not. Reading other books would do you no good.
- ❖ There are but two places where all go after death, white and black, rich and poor; those places are Heaven and Hell.
- ❖ Let all the time you can get be spent in trying to learn to read.
- ❖ Good servants frequently make good masters.
- ❖ It is very wicked for you not to take care of your masters goods, but how much worse is it to pilfer and steal from them, whenever you think you shall not be found out.

Online Books by Jupiter Hammon

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Hammon%2C%20Jupiter%2C%201711%2Dca%2E%201800>

- Hammon, Jupiter, 1711-ca. 1800: *An address to the Negroes in the state of New-York, by Jupiter Hammon, servant of John Lloyd, Jun, Esq; of the manor of Queen's Village, Long-Island. ; [Four lines from Acts]* (New-York: : Printed by Carroll and Patterson no. 32, Maiden-Lane., M,DCC,LXXXVII. [1787]) (HTML at Evans TCP)
- Hammon, Jupiter, 1711-ca. 1800: *An evening thought. Salvation by Christ, with penetential cries: / composed by Jupiter Hammon, a Negro belonging to Mr. Lloyd, of Queen's-Village, on Long-Island, the 25th of December, 1760.* ([United States : s.n., 1760?]) (HTML at Evans TCP)
- Hammon, Jupiter, 1711-ca. 1800: *An evening's improvement. Shewing, the necessity of beholding the Lamb of God. : To which is added, a dialogue, entitled, The kind master and dutiful servant. / Written by Jupiter Hammon, a Negro man belonging to Mr. John Lloyd, of Queen's Village, on Long-Island, now in Hartford.* (Hartford: : Printed for the author, by the assistance of his friends., [1790?]) (HTML at Evans TCP)
- Hammon, Jupiter, 1711-ca. 1800: *Hartford, August 4, 1778. An address to Miss Phillis Wheatly, Ethiopian poetess, in Boston, who came from Africa at eight years of age, and soon became acquainted with the gospel of Jesus Christ.* ([Hartford : Printed by Watson and Goodwin?, 1778]) (HTML at Evans TCP)
- Hammon, Jupiter, 1711-ca. 1800: *A winter piece: being a serious exhortation, with a call to the unconverted: and a short contemplation on the death of Jesus Christ. / Written by Jupiter Hammon, a Negro man belonging to Mr. John Lloyd, of Queen's Village, on Long Island, now in Hartford. ; Published by the author with the assistance of his friends.* (Hartford: : Printed [by Hudson and Goodwin] for the author., M.DCC.LXXXII. [1782]) (HTML at Evans TCP)





HECTOR ST. JOHN DE CREVECOEUR (1735-1813)

"Could the laws be founded but on common justice they would not need of any amendments."

Major Works

- *Letters from an American Farmer: Describing Certain Provincial Situations, Manners, and Customs, Not Generally Known; and Conveying Some Idea of the Late and Present Interior Circumstances of the British Colonies of North America*, 1782.
- *Letters from an American Farmer, written to W.S. (William Seton), squire, from the year 1770 to 1781, translated from English by *** (Lettres d'un cultivateur américain : écrites à W. S. (William Seton), écuyer, depuis l'année 1770 jusqu'à 1781, traduites de l'anglois par ***), 1784.*
- *Memoire sur le Commerce Entre la France et les États-Unis D'Amerique*, 1784 (manuscript rests in the U.S. Embassy, Paris).
- *Eighteenth-Century Travels in Pennsylvania and New York (Voyage dans la Haute-Pensylvanie et dans l'état de New-York)*, 1801.
- *Sketches of the Eighteenth Century America: More "Letters From an American Farmer"*, probably written between 1770 and 1774, first published 1925.



Philosophical Hall, the headquarters of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia



Library Hall in 2024

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Philosophical_Society
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Hector_St._John_de_Cr%C3%A8vec%C5%93ur

Letters from an American Farmer

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letters_from_an_American_Farmer

Letters from an American Farmer is a series of letters written by [French American](#) writer [J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur](#), first published in [1782](#). The considerably longer title under which it was originally published is *Letters from an American Farmer; Describing Certain Provincial Situations, Manners, and Customs not Generally Known; and Conveying Some Idea of the Late and Present Interior Circumstances of the British Colonies in North America*. The twelve letters cover a wide range of topics, from the emergence of an American identity to the [slave trade](#).

Crèvecoeur wrote *Letters* during a period of seven years prior to the [American Revolutionary War](#), while farming in the fertile Greycourt, blackdirt region of [Chester](#), a small town in [Orange County, New York](#). It is told from the viewpoint of a fictional narrator in correspondence with an English gentleman, and each letter concerns a different aspect of life or location in the [British colonies of America](#). The work incorporates a number of styles and genres, including documentary, as well as [sociological](#) observations.

Some Important Web Pages

- 01] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Michel-Guillaume-Saint-Jean-de-Crevecoeur>
- 02] <https://www.learner.org/series/american-passages-a-literary-survey/spirit-of-nationalism/j-hector-st-john-de-crevecoeur-1735-1813/>
- 03] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4666>
- 04] <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/a-new-nation/hector-st-jean-de-crevecoeur-describes-the-american-people-1782/>
- 05] <https://www.rct.uk/collection/1022495/letters-from-an-american-farmer-describing-certain-provincial-situations-manners>
- 06] <https://oxfordre.com/literature/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-678?p=emailAS8VV6VmYs8iA&d=/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-678>

Key Aspects of His Legacy

- **Letters from an American Farmer (1782)**: His most famous work, it explored the transformation of European immigrants into "Americans," asking, "What is an American?" and describing a new society melting diverse peoples into one.
- **The "New American"**: He coined the idea of the American as a "new man," shaped by opportunity, hard work, and a connection to the land, contrasting with Old World aristocracy.
- **Nature and Rural Life**: His vivid descriptions of American flora, fauna, and frontier life provided a fresh, honest perspective, anticipating later environmental appreciation.
- **Historical Source**: His writings serve as a crucial firsthand account of colonial America, including interactions with Native Americans, whaling, and farming.
- **Contradictions**: His pro-British views during the Revolution limited his initial reception, and his narrator's passive reaction to witnessing slave torture highlights deep contradictions within American ideals he observed.
- **Influence**: Scholars now rank him alongside Franklin and Jefferson as a key contributor to American literature, recognizing his early insights into national identity and the American experience, notes this Oxford Research Encyclopedia article.

Key Aspects of His Writings (Memoir-like Qualities)

- **"Letters from an American Farmer"**: A series of letters from a fictional farmer (James) detailing life in the colonies, advocating for American uniqueness as a "melting pot," though with complex views on slavery.
- **Authentic Experience**: Based on Crèvecoeur's real life as a surveyor, farmer, and diplomat in America, offering firsthand accounts.
- **Themes**: Explored the American character, the simplicity of rural life, social mobility, the impact of the Revolution, and the nascent national identity.
- **"Sketches of Eighteenth Century America"**: Later collections of writings, including personal anecdotes and observations, further revealing his American journey.



THOMAS PAINE

(1737-1809)

"I prefer peace. But if trouble must come, let it come in my time, so that my children can live in peace."

Naming the United States

Historians connect Paine to the rise of the national title "United States of America". Writing as "Republicus" in the June 29, 1776, issue of the [Pennsylvania Evening Post](#), he urged Congress to adopt the name so the new polity could present itself as a nation, and the phrase reached a wider audience days later in the Declaration.

EVERY moment that I reflect on our affairs, the more am I convinced of the necessity of a formal Declaration of Independence. Reconciliation is thought of now by none but knaves, fools and madmen; and as we cannot offer terms of peace to Great-Britain, until, as other nations have done before us, we agree to call ourselves by some name, I shall rejoice to hear the title of the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, in order that we may be on a proper footing to negotiate a peace.

The American Crisis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_American_Crisis

The American Crisis, or simply *The Crisis*, is a pamphlet series by eighteenth-century [Enlightenment](#) philosopher and author [Thomas Paine](#), originally published from 1776 to 1783 during the [American Revolution](#). Thirteen numbered pamphlets were published between 1776 and 1777, with three additional pamphlets released between 1777 and 1783. The first of the pamphlets was published in [The Pennsylvania Journal](#) on December 19, 1776. Paine signed the pamphlets with the pseudonym, "Common Sense".

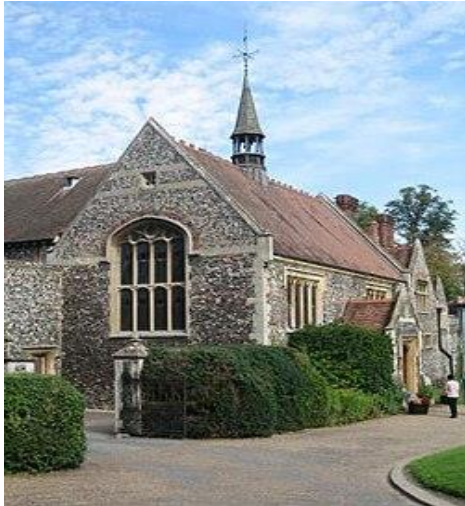
The pamphlets were contemporaneous with early parts of the American Revolution, when colonists needed inspiring works. *The American Crisis* series was used to "recharge the revolutionary cause." Paine, like many other politicians and scholars, knew that the colonists were not going to support the [American Revolutionary War](#) without proper reason to do so. Written in a language that the common person could understand, they represented Paine's liberal philosophy. Paine also used references to God, saying that a war against [Great Britain](#) would be a war with the support of God. Paine's writings bolstered the morale of the American colonists, appealed to the British people's consideration of the war, clarified the issues at stake in the war, and denounced the advocates of a negotiated peace. The first volume famously begins: "These are the times that try men's souls."



The Friends of the People caricatured by [Isaac Cruikshank](#), November 15, 1792. Joseph Priestley and Thomas Paine are surrounded by incendiary items.



English satirist [James Gillray](#) ridicules Paine in Paris awaiting sentence of execution from three hanging judges.



Old School at [Thetford Grammar School](#), where Paine was educated.



Thomas Paine's house in [Lewes](#)

Quotable QUOTES

- The World is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion.
- The strength and power of despotism consist wholly in the fear of resistance.
- If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.
- Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.
- That which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly.

Timeline

Early Life & Emigration (1737-1774)

- **1737:** Born in Thetford, England.
- **1772:** Publishes *The Case of the Officers of Excise*, advocating for better pay for excise officers.
- **1774:** Meets Benjamin Franklin in London, who gives him a letter of introduction, and he emigrates to Philadelphia, America.

American Revolution (1775-1783)

- **1776:** Publishes *Common Sense*, a powerful pamphlet arguing for American independence, widely read before the Declaration of Independence.
- **1776-1783:** Writes the *Crisis Papers*, rallying support for the American cause during the war.

French Revolution & European Years (1787-1802)

- **1787:** Travels to France, a country on the verge of revolution, as noted Thomas Paine.
- **1791-1792:** Publishes *Rights of Man*, Parts I & II, defending the French Revolution, leading to a treason indictment in England.
- **1792:** Becomes a French citizen and moves to France.
- **1793-1794:** Imprisoned in France during the Reign of Terror; narrowly escapes execution.
- **1794-1795:** Publishes *The Age of Reason*, a critique of organized religion.
- **1796:** Publishes *Agrarian Justice*.

Return to America & Death (1802-1809)

- **1802:** Returns to the United States at the invitation of President Thomas Jefferson.
- **1809:** Dies in New York City, buried in New Rochelle.

<https://www.lakeshorepublicmedia.org/2026-01-10/the-legacy-of-thomas-paines-common-sense-on-its-250th-anniversary>

<https://www.confinity.com/legacies/thomas-paine>



PHILLIS WHEATLEY

(C.1753-1784)

" May be refined, and join the angelic train".



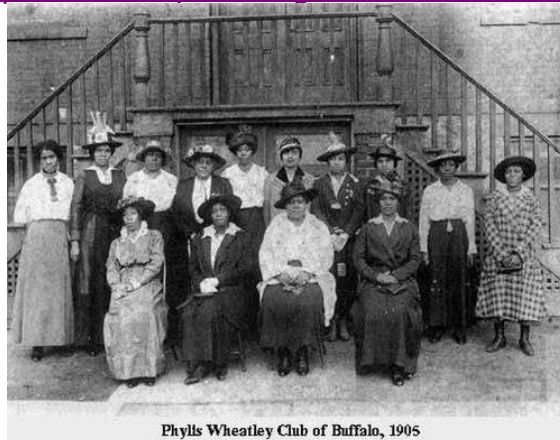
Phillis Wheatley's church,
Old South Meeting House



Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in the Shaw
neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

Phillis Wheatley Club

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillis_Wheatley_Club



Phyllis Wheatley Club of Buffalo, 1905

Phyllis Wheatley Club, Buffalo, New York, in 1905

The **Phillis Wheatley Clubs** (also **Phyllis Wheatley Club**) are women's clubs created by African Americans starting in the late 1800s. The first club was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1895. Some clubs are still active. The purpose of Phillis Wheatley Clubs varied from area to area, although most were involved in community and personal improvement. Some clubs helped in desegregation and voting rights efforts. The clubs were named after the poet Phillis Wheatley.

Phillis Wheatley earned acclaim as a Black poet, and historians recognize her as one of the first Black and enslaved persons in the United States to publish a book of poems.

Some Important Web Pages

- 01] <https://npg.si.edu/blog/phillis-wheatley-her-life-poetry-and-legacy>
- 02] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/phillis-wheatley>
- 03] <https://www.nyswritersinstitute.org/post/a-selection-of-poems-by-phillis-wheatley-peters>
- 04] <https://www.nps.gov/people/phillis-wheatley.htm>
- 05] <https://massachusetts250.org/phillis-wheatley-the-revolutionary-poet-laureate/>

Chronology of Phillis Wheatley

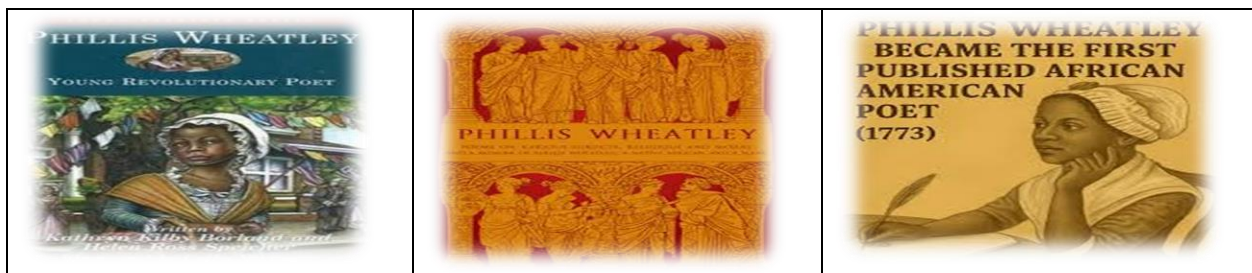
- **c. 1753:** Born in West Africa (likely Gambia/Senegal).
- **1761:** Captured, transported to Boston on the slave ship *Phillis*, and purchased by John Wheatley; named "Phillis" after the ship.
- **1762-1765:** Educated by the Wheatleys (Susanna & Mary), mastering English, Latin, and Greek, and developing a deep interest in poetry.
- **1767:** First published poem, "[On Messrs. Huffey and Coffin](#)," appears in the *Newport Mercury*.
- **1770:** Gains significant attention with her elegy for Rev. George Whitefield, published and advertised across New England.
- **1773:** *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* published in London, funded by the Countess of Huntingdon; the Wheatleys emancipate her shortly after.
- **1775:** Writes to George Washington, who invites her to visit, acknowledging her talent.
- **1778:** Marries John Peters, a free Black grocer; they face financial difficulties and loss of children.
- **1784:** Dies in poverty in Boston, leaving behind unpublished works and a significant literary legacy as the first published African American poet.

Key Aspects of Her Legacy

- **Pioneering Author:** She was the first enslaved person, first African American, and third colonial American woman to publish a book, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, in 1773.
- **Challenging Stereotypes:** Her remarkable talent and published work served as powerful evidence against prevailing beliefs that Black people lacked intellectual and artistic capabilities, notes [Chapman University](#) and [this hub article](#).
- **Abolitionist Inspiration:** Her story was used by 19th-century abolitionists to promote the anti-slavery cause, and she became a touchstone for Black women activists and literary figures, including groups like the [Phyllis Wheatley Club](#) in Chicago, as detailed by [Texas Christian University](#) and the [National Women's History Museum](#).
- **Literary Voice:** Her poetry, rooted in faith, offered subtle critiques of slavery while exploring universal themes, influencing generations of writers and establishing her as a key figure in American poetry, according to the [National Park Service](#) and [this YouTube video](#).
- **Symbol of Maternal Health:** Her death in childbirth at 31 connects her legacy to contemporary issues of Black maternal mortality and health disparities, as discussed by the [Perinatal Health Equity Initiative](#).

Some Videos

- 01] The Legacy of Phillis Wheatley: From Boston, MA to Albuquerque NM
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBte9uw6bTE> [1:01:38]
- 02] "The Feast of Genius and the Play of Art": The Legacies and Communities of Phillis Wheatley Peters
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNOCWU_KvwE [59:14]
- 03] Wheatley at 250: Celebrating the Legacy of America's First Published African-American Poet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydWACJtZ94M> [58:11]
- 04] Phillis Wheatley's Legacy in Africa and the African Diaspora
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o31qGL6jBH4> [1:49:20]
- 05] Discover The Legacy of Phillis Wheatley with A House for the Nations!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-bdq3LA+TE> [50:11]





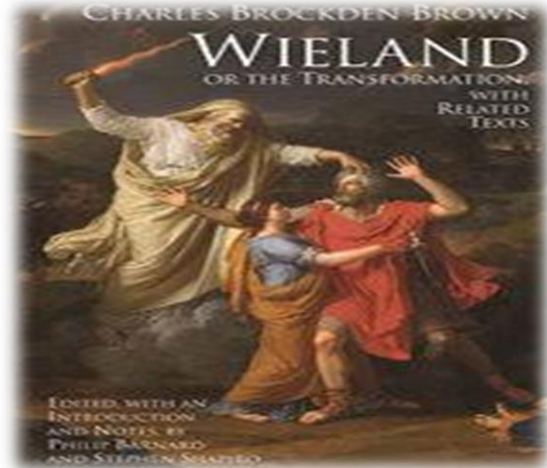
CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN

(1771-1810)

"How slender is the accommodation which nature has provided for man".



Charles Brockden Brown cenotaph
in [Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)



Brown's Novels

- [*Sky-Walk; or, The Man Unknown to Himself*](#) (completed by March 1798 and partially typeset, but subsequently lost and never published)
- [*Wieland; or, the Transformation*](#) (September 1798)
- [*Ormond; or, the Secret Witness*](#) (January 1799)
- a) [*Arthur Mervyn; or, Memoirs of the Year 1793*](#) (May 1799)
- [*Edgar Huntly; or, Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker*](#) (August 1799)
- [*Memoirs of Stephen Calvert*](#) (serialized from June 1799 to June 1800)
- b) [*Arthur Mervyn; or, Memoirs of the Year 1793, Second Part*](#) (September 1800)
- [*Clara Howard; In a Series of Letters*](#) (June 1801)
- [*Jane Talbot; A Novel*](#) (December 1801)
- [*Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*](#) (1803-1805, unfinished)

[Kindly visit these Web Pages](#)

01] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Brockden-Brown>

02] <https://www.librarycompany.org/gothic/brown.htm>

- 03] <https://brockdenbrownsociety.cah.ucf.edu/about-brown/>
04] <https://www.loa.org/writers/197-charles-brockden-brown/>
05] <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1888/05/charles-brockden-brown/634800/>
06] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/3437/charles-brockden-brown/>



The Charles Brockden Brown Society
<https://brockdenbrownsociety.cah.ucf.edu/>

The Charles Brockden Brown Society was organized at the second biennial Charles Brockden Brown conference in October 2000 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Society provides a platform for discussion of and research on Brown and the culture, history, and literature of the North Atlantic in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Charles Brockden Brown stands as a vital touchstone for the traffic of cultures across and around the Atlantic, recording and responding to ideas, images, and news as they came to attention from sources in North America, Anglophone and continental Europe, and regions of the world colonized by European countries.

The Brown Society mobilizes research on these axes of historical and literary research by hosting a conference every two years and by providing the Discussion Forum, here at this website, where it is hoped that Brown scholars will share comments, ideas, and information about Brown and related subjects.

Key Aspects of His Legacy

- **Pioneer of the American Gothic**: He adapted the European Gothic genre (terror, horror, supernatural) to American landscapes, themes, and social issues, focusing on psychological breakdown rather than castles.
- **Psychological Depth**: Explored the irrational, madness, and the fragility of the mind, influencing later writers' focus on internal struggles.
- **First American Professional Writer**: He was the first native-born American to earn a living solely through writing fiction and non-fiction.
- **Influential Precursor**: His work paved the way for major American authors, including Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, [Herman Melville](#), and [James Fenimore Cooper](#).

- **Themes & Social Commentary:** Engaged with contemporary issues like democracy, religious fanaticism, yellow fever epidemics, and social inequality (race, class, gender).
- **Key Works:** Novels like *Wieland* (exploring mental balance and religious delusion) and *Arthur Mervyn* (set during a Philadelphia epidemic) remain central.

Some Detailed Videos

01] *Wieland* by Charles Brockden Brown - Audiobook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRQEPiJ-dRw> [7:34:41]

02] *Wieland; Or, The Transformation: An American Tale* by Charles Brockden BROWN Part 1/2 | Audio Book

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_EuXlbWqc8 [[7:04:01]

03] *Wieland's Madness* by Charles Brockden Brown - Audiobook

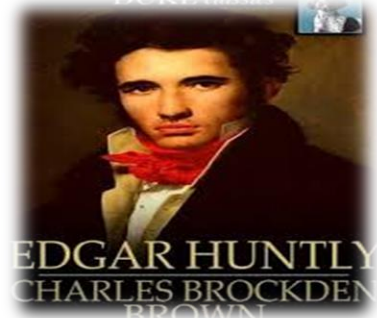
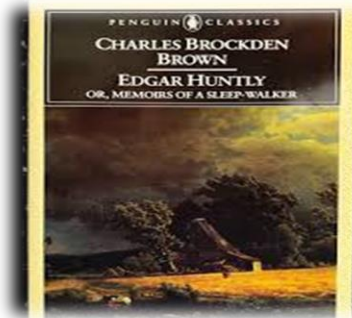
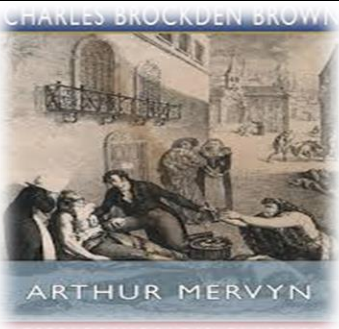
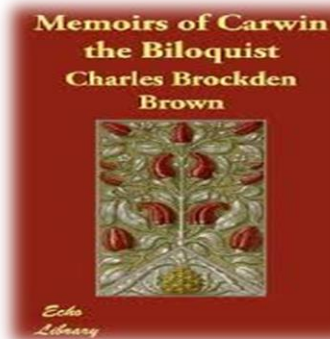
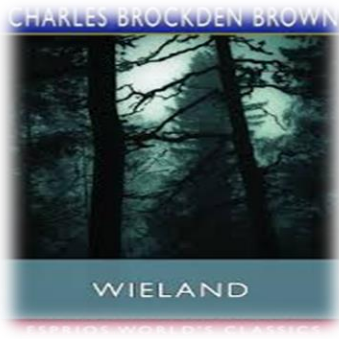
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srEb0a_25R0 [3:03:06]

04] *WIELAND; OR THE TRANSFORMATION* by Charles Brockden Brown. Audiobook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8zrHOPzrAY> [8:30:59]

05] *Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist (A Fragment)* by Charles Brockden Brown - Full Audiobook

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dWnXv6_050 [11:41:25]





WASHINGTON IRVING (1783-1859)

"Great minds have purposes; others have wishes".



Irving and his friends at [Sunnyside](#)



Irving acquired his famous home in Tarrytown, New York, known as Sunnyside, in 1835.



Washington Irving's headstone, [Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Sleepy Hollow, New York](#)



Bust of Washington Irving by [Daniel Chester French](#) in [Irvington, New York](#), not far from Sunnyside

Father of the American Short Story

Washington Irving (April 3, 1783-November 28, 1859) was a writer, essayist, historian, biographer, and diplomat most famous for the short stories "[Rip Van Winkle](#)" and "[The Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#)." These works were both a part of "The Sketch Book," the collection of short stories that won him international recognition. Washington Irving has been called the father of the American short story because of his early and unique contributions to the form.

Fast Facts: Washington Irving

- **Known For:** Father of the American short story, biographer, historian, diplomat

- **Also Known As:** Dietrich Knickerbocker, Jonathan Oldstyle, and Geoffrey Crayon
- **Born:** April 3, 1783 in New York City
- **Parents:** William Irving and Sarah Sanders
- **Died:** November 28, 1859 in Tarrytown, New York
- **Education:** Elementary school, law school
- **Published Works:** *A History of New York*, *The Sketch Book* (including the stories *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*), *Bracebridge Hall*, *The Alhambra*, *The Life of George Washington*
- **Fiancée:** Matilda Hoffmann
- **Notable Quote:** "There is a certain relief in change, even though it be from bad to worse; as I have found in travelling in a stage-coach, that it is often a comfort to shift one's position and be bruised in a new place."

Memoirs of Washington Irving

Memoirs of Washington Irving refer to biographical accounts of the famous American author, best known for "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," often compiled with selections from his own writings, reflecting his travels in Europe, diplomatic service, and personal life, with notable works like *The Sketch Book* and *Tales of the Alhambra* showcasing his narrative style and romantic influences. Key aspects include his melancholic tone after losing his fiancée, his role as the "Father of American Literature," and his detailed observations of 19th-century society and landscapes, making his memoirs valuable for literary and historical insight.

Key Themes & Content

- **Travel & Culture:** Irving's extensive time in Europe (Spain, France, England) deeply influenced his work, providing rich material for travelogues and cultural observations, notes [interestingliterature.com](https://www.interestingliterature.com).
- **Romanticism:** His writing blends historical context with personal sentiment, capturing the essence of the Romantic movement.
- **Autobiographical Elements:** Works like *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.* and *Tales of the Alhambra* contain autobiographical reflections, portraying his unique perspective on the world.
- **Historical Works:** He also wrote biographies (e.g., of George Washington) and histories of Spain, offering insights into his research and narrative skills, Interesting Literature.

Some Web Pages

01] <https://www.thoughtco.com/washington-irving-biography-735849>

- 02] <https://americanliterature.com/author/washington-irving>
03] <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/washington-irving>
04] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Washington-Irving>

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Quotable QUOTES

- Villainy wears many masks; none so dangerous as the mask of virtue.
- One of the greatest and simplest tools for learning more and growing is doing more.
- A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshen into smiles.
- A barking dog is often more useful than a sleeping lion.
- https://www.azquotes.com/author/7202-Washington_Irving
- https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/28525.Washington_Irving
- <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/washington-irving-quotes>

SOME VIDEOS

- 01] "Christmas" by Washington Irving
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnXC-nFThmY> [40:53]
02] Washington Irving: American Dreams
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj9Bo3vaI_Y [43:02]
03] National Archives Comes Alive! Young Learners Program: Meet Washington Irving
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUV39RSloew> [41:09]
04] Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving | Full Audiobook
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aodKdUnmEqs> [38:05]
05] The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGMKQ8De_xo [1:15:32]
06] 25+ The World's Greatest Short Stories. Vol. 1:... by Washington Irving · Audiobook preview
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8SUcmv6O3w> [2:58:04]
07] The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving · Video 1 of 1
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO8dQSPad4w> [1:06:13]

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JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

(1789-1851)

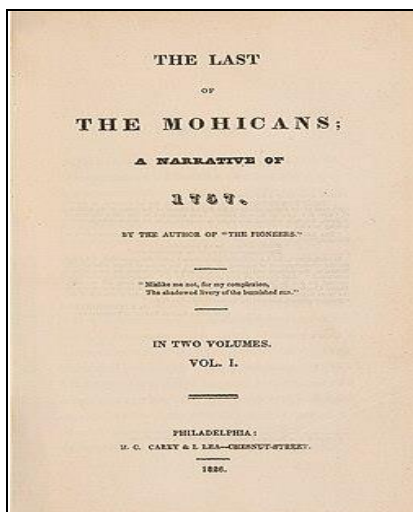
"Advice is not a gift, but a debt that the old owe to the young".



Statue in [Cooperstown, New York](#)



Cooper was honored on a U.S. commemorative stamp, the *Famous American* series, issued in 1940



The Last of the Mohicans: A Narrative of 1757 is an 1826 [historical romance novel](#) by [James Fenimore Cooper](#). It is the second book of the [Leatherstocking Tales](#) pentalogy and the best known to contemporary audiences. [The Pathfinder](#), published 14 years later in 1840, is its sequel; its prequel, [The Deerslayer](#), was published a year after *The Pathfinder*. *The Last of the Mohicans* is set in 1757, during the [French and Indian War](#) (the North American theater of the [Seven Years' War](#)), when [France](#) and [Great Britain](#) battled for control of North America. During this war, both the French and the British used [Native American](#) allies, but the

French were particularly dependent on Indigenous forces since they were outnumbered in the Northeast frontier areas by the British. Specifically, the events of the novel are set immediately before, during, and after the [Siege of Fort William Henry](#).

The James Fenimore Cooper Society

The James Fenimore Cooper Society is a friendly and informal group of students, scholars, and readers scattered around the globe and united by our common interest in appreciating the life, works, and ideas of James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) and his daughter Susan Fenimore Cooper (1813-1894).

It was founded September 15, 1989, by Hugh Cooke MacDougall, 1932-2021, who served as its Secretary/Treasurer and later as its Corresponding Secretary.

Some selected Web Pages

- 01] <https://www.acton.org/pub/religion-liberty/volume-13-number-6/james-fenimore-cooper>
- 02] <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199827251/obo-9780199827251-0229.xml>
- 03] <https://jfcoopersociety.org/content/home.htm>
- 04] <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2007/septemberoctober/feature/in-defense-cooper>
- 05] <https://web.uwm.edu/lib-omeka-spc2/exhibits/show/classictext/cooper>
- 06] <https://www.literarytraveler.net/blog/2012/09/behind-the-article-rediscovering-james-fenimore-coopers-literary-legacy/>
- 07] <https://sunypress.edu/Series/T/The-Writings-of-James-Fenimore-Cooper>
- 08] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/483>

{Providing web links to all of his BOOKS}

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Quotable QUOTES

- If the newspapers are useful in overthrowing tyrants, it is only to establish a tyranny of their own.

- There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, There is a rapture on the lonely shore.
- The ability to discriminate between that which is true and that which is false is one of the last attainments of the human mind.
- No civilized society can long exist, with an active power in its bosom that is stronger than the law.
- <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/james-fenimore-cooper-quotes>
- <https://quotefancy.com/james-fenimore-cooper-quotes>
- https://www.azquotes.com/author/3248-James_F_Cooper

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Some Videos

- 01] Why You Should Read James Fenimore Cooper's The Last of the Mohicans | Jerry Salyer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHwTRson5xA> [24:04]
- 02] James Fenimore Cooper's The Spy and the early years of the Cooper Edition
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2AZiCgkDN4> [42:12]
- 03] Wayne Franklin, James Fenimore Cooper: The Later Years
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc6Lq0aQCRM> [1:36:11]
- 04] Autobiography of a Pocket-Handkerchief by James Fenimore Cooper | Full Audio Book
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPwcf2EN2y4> [5:22:02]
- 05] Dr. Nick Junkerman, "James Fenimore Cooper: History & Fiction in 'The Last of the Mohicans'"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmrbr7go1zM> [1:19:47]
- 06] James Fenimore Cooper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Z4-NrL-qUI> [1:11:53]
- 07] An Introduction to James Fenimore Cooper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqFm64QY4HE> [46:09]

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HARRIET E WILSON

(1825-1900)

"I admire and look up to heroes, but indolent men make the best lovers."

Compiled by

Pavithra S <::> Reg No. 253313111003

The Harriet Wilson Project

<http://www.harrietwilsonproject.net/about-us.html>

The Harriet Wilson Project was officially established in 2003 under the leadership of Founder, **JerriAnne Boggis** and Founding Mothers, **Mabelle Barnette**, **Gloria Henry** and **Claudette Williams**, as a response to an op-ed in Milford's local paper outlining why Wilson's novel should not be studied at the high school level. The group later expanded to include historian **Barbara White**, author **Stasia Millett**, and artist **Napoleon-Jones Henderson**.

The goals of the Project were to:

- ◇ Sponsor statewide book discussions of Wilson's work
- ◇ Organize panel discussions of Wilson's contribution to American literature and history
- ◇ Work to incorporate Our Nig into the NH secondary school curriculum
- ◇ Sponsor and facilitate high school participation in the creation of an Art mural for the state
- ◇ Orchestrate the creation of a memorial monument for the town of Milford
- ◇ Create a dramatic stage work to portray Harriet Wilson's life in New Hampshire
- ◇ Create a documentary video that will explore the life and times of Harriet Wilson
- ◇ Establish the Harriet Wilson Scholarship Fund for college students studying Arts and Humanities

By promoting New Hampshire's Black heritage and acknowledging the contributions made by Wilson and other African Americans to New Hampshire's history and culture, the Harriet Wilson Project works to foster an appreciation of diverse ethnicity and create an inclusive climate.

Some Web Pages

01] <https://www.wmur.com/article/nh-chronicle-the-remarkable-life-of-milfords-harriet-wilson/63634287>

02] <https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2012/09/harriet-wilson.html>

03] <https://freedomsway.org/story/harriet-e-wilson/>

04]

<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.201108031235461>

54

05] <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/43617/43617-h/43617-h.htm>

06] <https://hob.gseis.ucla.edu/Spotlights/carrillo.html>

07] https://www.myblackhistory.net/Harriet_Wilson.htm

08] <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=5038>

09] <https://www.nhradicalhistory.org/story/harriet-e-adams-wilson/>

10] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Harriet-E-Wilson>



Some Interesting Details

Literary Legacy

- ***Our Nig***: Her novel is a powerful account of a mixed-race girl's abuse and exploitation in the North, challenging the idea that racism was solely a Southern issue.
- **First Black Female Novelist**: *Our Nig* secured her place as the first Black woman to publish a novel in the United States.

Life and Resilience

- **Indentured Servitude**: Born in Milford, NH, she was placed with a white family as an indentured servant, experiencing harsh treatment.
- **Adversity**: After being abandoned by her husband, she raised her son alone, working as a domestic servant, selling her book door-to-door to support them.
- **Rediscovery**: Her work was "lost" for decades until scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. republished it in 1983, bringing her story back to light.

Enduring Recognition

- **Memorials**: Milford, NH, where she grew up, now honors her with a bronze statue and historical markers, recognizing her courage and literary achievement.
- **Inspiration**: Her life is seen as a testament to endurance, proving that words and voices can overcome profound societal obstacles.



Some Videos

01] Readings from Harriet Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMYrjgwDIDM> [40:17]

02] Beyond Mortal Vision: Harriet Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcAqEuDLxfs> [1:20:29]

P. Gabrielle Foreman, associate professor of English and American studies at Occidental College; and Reginald H. Pitts, an historical researcher and genealogical consultant, offer groundbreaking information about Harriet Wilson from their Introduction to the 2005 Penguin Classics edition of Wilson's 1859 *Our Nig; or Sketches from the Life of A Free*

Black. Wilson was thought to have disappeared from the historical record not long after her novel was published. However, through their scholarly research work, Foreman and Pitts have learned that Wilson lived for almost 40 more years.

03] Our Nig - Harriet E. Wilson Full Audiobook

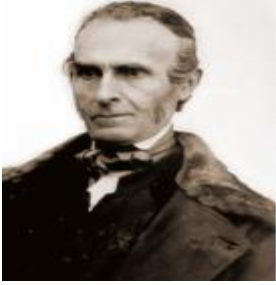
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObImFDwzP90> [2:36:12]

Our Nig, or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black, In A Two-Story White House Harriet E. Wilson (1825 - 1900) Frado is a colored girl, living in the USA a few years before the Civil War. She is abandoned by her own white mother in the house of the Bellmont's- where she is treated badly. This is a sad book, but Frado's cheerfulness and dignity will make you love her until the end.

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Quotable QUOTES

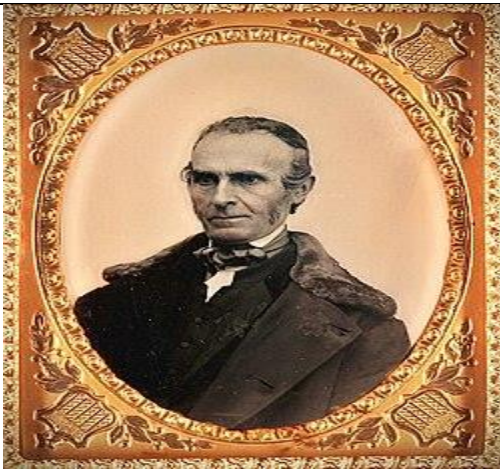
- Pity and love know little severance. One attends the other.
- There she lived for years, hugging her wrongs, but making no effort to escape.
- Enough has been unrolled to demand your sympathy and aid.
- I shall not say why and how I became, at the age of fifteen, the mistress of the Earl of Craven.
- Expert with the needle, Frado soon equaled her instructress; and she sought also to teach her the value of useful books; and while one read aloud to the other of deeds historic and names renowned, Frado experienced a new impulse. She felt herself capable of elevation; she felt that this book information supplied an undefined dissatisfaction she had long felt, but could not express.
- Lonely Mag Smith! See her as she walks with downcast eyes and heavy heart. It was not always thus. She had a loving, trusting heart.



JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

(1807-1892)

"The joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you"



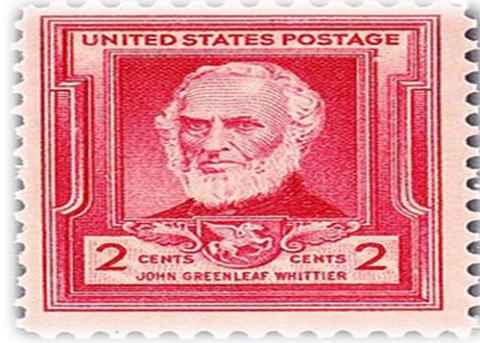
Daguerreotype of John Greenleaf Whittier, c. 1855-60



Whittier's grave in Amesbury, Massachusetts



The John Greenleaf Whittier Home in Amesbury, Massachusetts



United States postal stamp of Whittier, issued in 1940

Some Web Pages

01] <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199827251/obo-9780199827251-0169.xml>

02] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/john-greenleaf-whittier-poems>

03] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-greenleaf-whittier>

04] <https://poets.org/poet/john-greenleaf-whittier>

05] https://hymnary.org/person/Whittier_John

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Quotable QUOTES

- ✚ For all sad words of tongue and pen, The saddest are these, 'It might have been.
- ✚ As a small businessperson, you have no greater leverage than the truth.
- ✚ The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.
- ✚ From the death of the old the new proceeds, and the life of truth from the death of creeds.
- ✚ Rest if you must, but never quit.
- ✚ Thee lift me, and I lift thee, and together we ascend.
- ✚ [https://www.azquotes.com/author/15610-John Greenleaf Whittier/tag/humanity](https://www.azquotes.com/author/15610-John_Greenleaf_Whittier/tag/humanity)
- ✚ <https://quotefancy.com/john-greenleaf-whittier-quotes>
- ✚ <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/john-greenleaf-whittier-quotes>
- ✚ <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/313944>

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Key Aspects of His Legacy

- **Abolitionist Firebrand:** In his early career, Whittier was a dedicated abolitionist, publishing influential pamphlets, editing anti-slavery newspapers, and lobbying politicians, even enduring mob violence for his commitment to ending slavery.
- **Political Strategist:** He was instrumental in bringing abolitionist ideas into the political arena, breaking with radical abolitionists to support gradual political change, a move that proved effective.
- **Master of Pastoral Poetry:** After the Civil War, he found immense success writing nostalgic, evocative poems about rural New England, with *Snow-*

Bound becoming his masterpiece, offering comfort and beauty to a fractured nation.

- **"Fireside Poet":** He's enshrined among the beloved "Schoolroom Poets" (Longfellow, Emerson, Holmes) for his accessible, heartfelt verse, making him a staple in American education and homes.
- **Themes of Justice & Humanity:** His work consistently championed tolerance, equality, and simple virtues, reflecting his Quaker upbringing and deep belief in humanitarian principles.
- **Enduring Works:** Beyond *Snow-Bound*, his legacy includes poems like "[Maud Muller](#)," "[Barbara Frietchie](#)," and "[The Barefoot Boy](#)," which remain well-known.

SOME VIDEOS

01] John Greenleaf Whittier Home Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFPxgxFoJgA> [34:26]

02] LA BIBLIOTECA IDEAL, 452: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCLYQjHJeW4> [23:27]

03] 1950 - John Greenleaf Whittier - Poet

<https://www.youtube.com/live/xwjuyYQbgsc> [17:22]

04] Forgiveness (Whittier) by John Greenleaf WHITTIER read by | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cmfjx8u0lc> [15:36]

05] John Greenleaf Whittier (1950)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24HSNOWCwAQ> [16:56]

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John Greenleaf Whittier House

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Greenleaf_Whittier_House

The **John Greenleaf Whittier Home** is a [historic house](#) located at 86 Friend Street, [Amesbury, Massachusetts](#). It was the home of American poet and [abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier](#) from 1836 until his death in 1892, and is now a nonprofit museum open to the public May 1 through October 31; an admission fee is charged. It was designated a [National Historic Landmark](#) in 1962, and listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1966.

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MARGARET FULLER

(1810-1850)

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it".

Her Major Works

01] **Woman in the Nineteenth Century** is a book by American journalist, editor, and women's rights advocate Margaret Fuller. Originally published in July 1843 in The Dial magazine as "The Great Lawsuit. Man versus Men. Woman versus Women", it was later expanded and republished in book form in 1845.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woman_in_the_Nineteenth_Century

02] **Summer on the Lakes, in 1843** is a nonfiction book by American writer and transcendentalist Margaret Fuller based on her experiences traveling to the Great Lakes region.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summer_on_the_Lakes



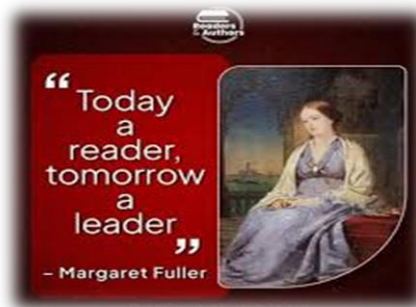
Birthplace and childhood home of Margaret Fuller



Plaque placed in 2010 on the house in Rieti



The Greene Street School where Fuller taught from 1837 to 1839



Key Aspects of Her Legacy

- **Feminism & Women's Rights**: Her book *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* argued for women's equality, spiritual growth, and expanded roles beyond the domestic sphere, inspiring the Seneca Falls Convention and later activists.
- **Transcendentalism**: As editor of *The Dial*, she championed Transcendentalist ideals, focusing on intuition, creativity, and self-reliance, and hosted influential "Conversations" for women.
- **Journalism & Literature**: She was the first female editor at the *New-York Tribune* and the first American woman foreign correspondent, reporting from revolutionary Italy, blending literary criticism with social commentary.
- **Intellectual Influence**: She was a central figure in the Boston/Concord intellectual scene, inspiring and challenging contemporaries like [Emerson](#) and [Thoreau](#), and later admired by [Elizabeth Barrett Browning](#).
- **Pioneering Spirit**: Her life embodied her philosophy, as she pushed boundaries to achieve personal and intellectual freedom in ways unprecedented for women of her era.

Some Useful Web Pages

- 01] <https://www.loa.org/news-and-views/the-mind-and-heart-of-margaret-fuller-three-editors-on-assembling-the-definitive-edition-of-a-singular-american-voice/>
- 02] <https://www.mawomenshistory.org/resources/biographies/margaret-fuller-1810-1850>
- 03] <https://www.walden.org/what-we-do/library/the-transcendentalists-their-lives-writings/sarah-margaret-fuller-1810-1850/>
- 04] <https://mountauburn.org/notable-residents/margaret-fuller-ossoli-1810-1850/>
- 05] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/margaret-fuller>
- 06] <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199827251/obo-9780199827251-0119.xml>
- 07] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Margaret-Fuller>

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### Some Selected Videos

- 01] "Finding Margaret Fuller" with Allison Pataki | Readers Club | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHeruMoYBq8>

02] Finding Margaret Fuller: A Novel—Allison Pataki with Julia Whelan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dH3mOf8yWQw> [49:55]

03] AUTHOR CHAT w/ Allison Pataki - Finding Margaret Fuller  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7i7scwS6X0> [1:07:51]

Join Allison Pataki and me for a historical night discussing an epic imagining of the life of Margaret Fuller—America's forgotten leading lady and the central figure of a movement that defined a nation—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*.

04] Oral History Project: Margaret Fuller, 2025 - Full Interview  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TxfMqvA50> [1:02:56]

05] Unfurling Taxonomies: Margaret Fuller's 'Femality' and the Magnolia Tree

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sYWrVpL8M8> [1:09:53]



### SOME Quotable QUOTES

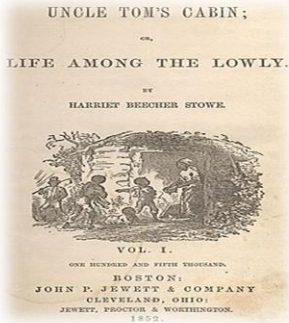
- I have learned to believe that nothing, no! not perfection, is unattainable.
- What Woman needs is not as a woman to act or rule, but as a nature to grow, as an intellect to discern, as a soul to live freely, and unimpeded to unfold such powers as were given her when we left our common home.
- It was not meant that the soul should cultivate the earth, but that the earth should educate and maintain the soul.
- There exists in the minds of men a tone of feeling toward women as toward slaves.
- Male and female represent the two sides of the great radical dualism. But in fact, they are perpetually passing into one another. Fluid hardens to solid, solid rushes to fluid. There is no wholly masculine man, no purely feminine woman.
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/margaret-fuller-quotes-3530133>
- <https://www.britannica.com/quotes/Margaret-Fuller>
- [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/113907.Margaret\\_Fuller](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/113907.Margaret_Fuller)
- <https://www.walden.org/the-margaret-fuller-society-and-collection/fifty-quotations-by-margaret-fuller/>
- <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/margaret-fuller-quotes>  
[https://www.azquotes.com/author/5230-Margaret\\_Fuller](https://www.azquotes.com/author/5230-Margaret_Fuller)



## HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

(1811-1896)

*"Never give up, for that is just the place and time  
that the tide will turn".*



### Uncle Tom's Cabin

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle\\_Tom%27s\\_Cabin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle_Tom%27s_Cabin)

***Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly*** is an [anti-slavery](#) novel by American author [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#). Published in two [volumes](#) in 1852, the novel had a profound effect on attitudes toward African Americans and [slavery in the U.S.](#), and is said to have "helped lay the groundwork for the [American Civil War](#)".

Stowe, a [Connecticut](#)-born teacher at the [Hartford Female Seminary](#), was part of the religious [Beecher family](#) and an active [abolitionist](#). She wrote the [sentimental novel](#) to depict the horrors of slavery while also asserting that [Christian love](#) could overcome slavery. The novel focuses on the character of Uncle Tom, a long-suffering black [slave](#) around whom the stories of the other characters revolve.

### Her Brief Profile

#### **Literary & Abolitionist Impact**

- ***Uncle Tom's Cabin***: Her most famous work, it vividly depicted the cruelties of slavery, becoming a bestseller and inspiring the anti-slavery movement in the North, while infuriating the South.
- **Shaping Public Opinion**: She used literature as a political voice, making deep emotional connections to sway public sentiment against slavery, proving the power of the pen.
- **Prolific Author**: Beyond *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, she wrote over 30 books, including other anti-slavery novels, travelogues (like *Palmetto Leaves* about Florida), and works on women's culture and religion.

#### **Social Reform & Activism**

- **Women's Rights**: She championed women's rights and used her platform to advocate for female suffrage and education.



- **Community Building:** In Florida, she helped establish integrated schools and churches, promoting social progress.
- **Challenging Norms:** Her writings explored themes of race, class, gender, and religion, directly challenging societal norms of her time.

### Enduring Influence

- **Literary Figure:** She became a leading voice in American letters, influencing subsequent generations of writers and activists.
- **Inspiration:** Her life's work showed how a woman, denied formal political power, could profoundly impact national events through writing and advocacy, inspiring future movements for justice.

### Honours & Rewards

- In 1986, Stowe was inducted into the [National Women's Hall of Fame](#).
- On June 13, 2007, the United States Postal Service issued a 75¢ [Distinguished Americans series](#) postage stamp in her honor.
- [Harris-Stowe State University](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, is named for Stowe and [William Torrey Harris](#).
- In 2010, Stowe was proposed by the [Ohio Historical Society](#) as a finalist in a statewide vote for inclusion in [Statuary Hall](#) at the [United States Capitol](#) ([Thomas Edison](#) was chosen instead).
- Jefferson's review of Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life was part of a portfolio that won her the 1995 Pulitzer Prize in Criticism.

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### Her BOOKS

- 01] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/26242.Harriet\\_Beecher\\_Stowe](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/26242.Harriet_Beecher_Stowe)
- 02] <https://www.loa.org/books/87-three-novels/>
- 03] <https://americanliterature.com/author/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 04] <https://stowehousecincy.org/harriet-beecher-stowe-reading-list.html>
- 05] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/harriet-beecher-stowe/202521/?srsltid=AfmBOooj66Zmf1pyFMvrKIA6U17P9ifJeO28RU7TNwA0gsgzITKj7Cwt>
- 06] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/harriet-beecher-stowe/>
- 07] <https://www.biblio.com/authors/harriet-beecher-stowe/505?srsltid=AfmBOor2fXcYB7rOJDzqlpX5dUZany64ZIKLihABT5LS-Za7dIJogrl3>

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### **Harriet Beecher Stowe House**

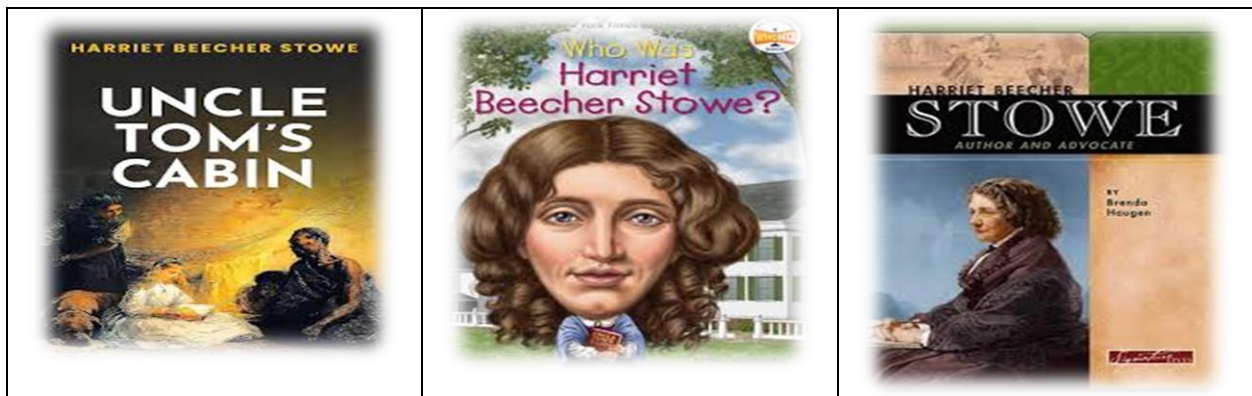
<https://www.stowehousecincy.org/the-history.html>

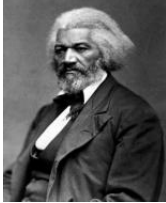
The house was home to Rev. Lyman Beecher and his large family, a prolific group of religious leaders, educators, writers, and antislavery and women's rights advocates. Harriet herself lived in the house for short periods of time throughout the 1830s. She continued to live in the Walnut Hills neighborhood until 1850. The extended Beecher family includes Harriet's sister, Catherine Beecher, an early female educator and writer who helped found numerous high schools and colleges for women; brother Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, a leader of the women's suffrage movement and considered by some to be the most eloquent minister of his time; General James Beecher, a Civil War general who commanded the first African-American troops in the Union Army recruited from the South; and sister Isabella Beecher Hooker, a women's rights advocate.

### **Some Web Pages**

- 01] <https://www.cwhf.org/inductees/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 02] <https://www.pulitzer.org/article/harriet-beecher-stowe-name-flowing-and-full-meaning>
- 03] <https://www.librarycompany.org/women/portraits/stowe.htm>
- 04] <https://www.history.com/articles/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 05] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 06] <https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 07] <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 08] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Harriet-Beecher-Stowe>
- 09] <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/harriet-beecher-stowe>
- 10] <https://connecticuthistory.org/people/harriet-beecher-stowe/>

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## FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1818-1895)

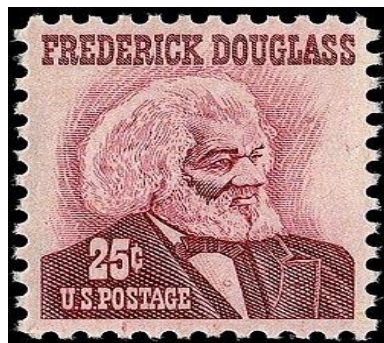
"You have to take power. No one gives it".



Frederick Douglass after 1884 with his second wife Helen Pitts Douglass (sitting). The woman standing is her sister Eva Pitts.



The home and meetinghouse of the Johnsons, where Douglass and his wife lived in New Bedford, Massachusetts



A 1965 U.S. postage stamp, published during the upsurge of the civil rights movement



The gravestone of Frederick Douglass, located in Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester

### Life and Times of Frederick Douglass

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life\\_and\\_Times\\_of\\_Frederick\\_Douglass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_and_Times_of_Frederick_Douglass)

***Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*** is Frederick Douglass's third autobiography, published in 1881 and revised in 1892. Because of the emancipation of American slaves during and following the American Civil War, Douglass gave more details about his life as a slave and his escape from slavery in this volume than he could in his two previous autobiographies (which would have put him and his family in danger). It is Douglass's only autobiography to discuss his life during and after the Civil War, including his encounters with American presidents such as Lincoln and Garfield, his account of the ill-fated "Freedman's Bank", and his service as the United States Marshall of the District of Columbia. Frederick Douglass shed light on his life as a slave. Although it is the least studied and analyzed of the autobiographies, ***Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*** allows readers to view his life as a whole.



### **My Bondage and My Freedom**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My\\_Bondage\\_and\\_My\\_Freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Bondage_and_My_Freedom)

**My Bondage and My Freedom** is an autobiographical [slave narrative](#) written by [Frederick Douglass](#) and published in 1855. It is the second of three autobiographies written by Douglass and is mainly an expansion of his first, [Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave](#). The book depicts in greater detail his transition from bondage to liberty. Following this liberation, Douglass went on to become a prominent [abolitionist](#), orator, author, newspaper publisher, and advocate for [women's rights](#).

### **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative\\_of\\_the\\_Life\\_of\\_Frederick\\_Douglass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative_of_the_Life_of_Frederick_Douglass)

**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave** is an 1845 [memoir](#) and treatise on [abolition](#) written by [African-American orator](#) and former [slave](#) [Frederick Douglass](#) during his time in [Lynn, Massachusetts](#).<sup>[1]</sup> It is the first of Douglass's three autobiographies, the others being [My Bondage and My Freedom](#) (1855) and [Life and Times of Frederick Douglass](#) (1881, revised 1892).

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is generally held to be the most famous of a number of [narratives](#) written by former slaves during the same period. In factual detail, the text describes the events of his life and is considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature to fuel the [abolitionist movement](#) of the early 19th century in the United States.

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* comprises eleven chapters that recount Douglass's life as a slave and his ambition to become a free man. It contains two introductions by well-known white [abolitionists](#): a preface by [William Lloyd Garrison](#) and a letter by [Wendell Phillips](#), both arguing for the veracity of the account and the literacy of its author.

### **Key aspects of his Legacy**

- **Abolitionism & Oratory:** He became a nationally renowned speaker, detailing his experiences to galvanize the anti-slavery movement, famously challenging America in his speech, "[What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?](#)".
- **Journalism & Publishing:** He founded influential newspapers like *The North Star*, using them to spread abolitionist ideas and advocate for Black equality.
- **Civil Rights Leadership:** He pushed President Lincoln to make the Civil War a fight for emancipation and recruit Black soldiers, significantly influencing the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) and the Union cause.



- **Author & Activist:** His autobiographies, particularly the first, became bestsellers, exposing slavery's horrors and becoming crucial abolitionist texts. He also championed women's suffrage.
- **Symbol of Empowerment:** He demonstrated that literacy and self-expression were powerful tools against oppression, inspiring generations to fight for freedom and agency.
- **Enduring Influence:** Douglass's life and work continue to shape modern understanding of race, democracy, and freedom, earning him recognition as the "[Father of the Civil Rights Movement](#)".

### Books by Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in Talbot county, Maryland, in the United States around 1818. In 1838, he managed to escape and get to New York. The best book to read about his life is his own memoir. He wrote three, but the first to be published was the [Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass](#) in 1845.

Another very good book about Frederick Douglass's life is [Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom](#) by Yale historian David Blight, a biography that puts Douglass in historical context. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for history.

01] <https://fivebooks.com/people/frederick-douglass-books/>

02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/34510>

03] <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/douglass/writings>

### Some Videos

01] Frederick Douglass - From Slave to Statesman Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqDEuzVZ8ww> [1:12:41]

02] Becoming Frederick Douglass (2022) | Full Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuQ7m5haBes> [54:41]

03] Frederick Douglass: Freedom's Voice | University Place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezeGmYYDHSs> [58:15]

04] A reading of "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-Bzbt5BJlo> [4:03:39]

### QUOTES:

Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.

01] <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/frederick-douglass-quotes>

02] <https://advancementproject.org/perspective/9-greatest-frederick-douglass-quotes/>

03] [https://www.azquotes.com/author/4104-Frederick\\_Douglass](https://www.azquotes.com/author/4104-Frederick_Douglass)

04] <https://www.thoughtco.com/frederick-douglass-quotes-on-womens-rights-3530068>

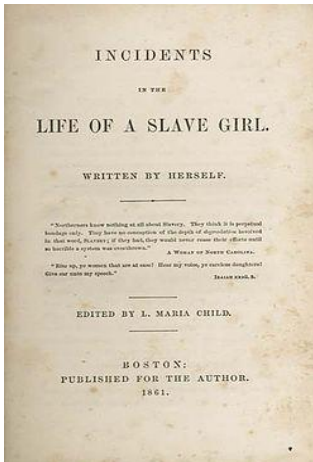


## HARRIET JACOBS

(1818-1896)

"Death is better than slavery".

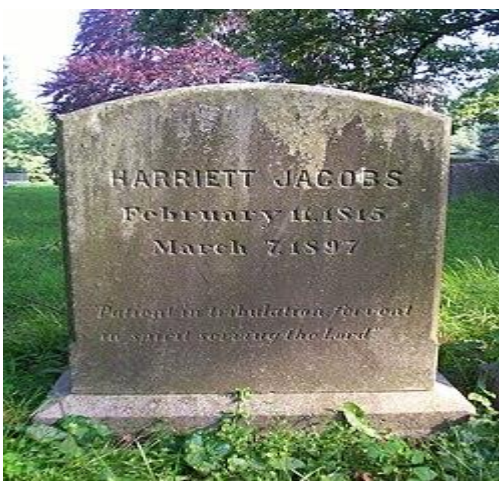
### Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl



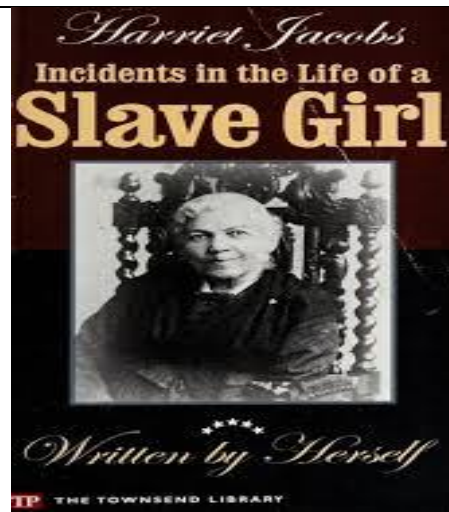
***Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*** is an autobiography by [Harriet Jacobs](#), a mother and fugitive slave, published in 1861 by [L. Maria Child](#), who edited the book for its author. Jacobs used the [pseudonym](#) Linda Brent. The book documents Jacobs' life as a slave and how she gained freedom for herself and for her children. Jacobs contributed to the genre of [slave narrative](#) by using the techniques of [sentimental novels](#) "to address race and gender issues." She explores the struggles and [sexual abuse](#) that female slaves faced as well as their efforts to practice motherhood and protect their children when their children might be sold away.

In the book, Jacobs addresses White [Northern](#) women who fail to comprehend the evils of slavery. She makes direct appeals to their humanity to expand their knowledge and influence their thoughts about slavery as an institution.

Jacobs composed *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* after her escape to [New York](#), while living and working at Idlewild, the home of writer and publisher [Nathaniel Parker Willis](#).



Grave of Harriet Jacobs



## Timeline

- 01] <https://blogs.urz.uni-halle.de/travelingwomen/2022/06/harriet-jacobs-incidents-in-the-life-of-a-slave-girl-1861/>
- 02] <https://www.harrietjacobs.org/timeline.html>
- 03] [https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/Harriet\\_Jacobs/](https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/Harriet_Jacobs/)
- 04] <https://prezi.com/anlzdac9ovjv/timeline-of-harriet-jacobs/>

## Some Web Pages

- 01] <https://hammondharwoodhouse.org/womens-history-month-harriet-jacobs-the-woman-in-the-attic/>
- 02] <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2004/02/up-from-slavery/>
- 03] <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780190280024/obo-9780190280024-0143.xml>

### Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, written by herself (1861) is an autobiography by Harriet Jacobs, a mother and fugitive slave, published under the pseudonym Linda Brent. The author documents her life as a slave and how she gained freedom for herself and for her children. Jacobs explores the struggles unique to female slaves, some of which include sexual abuse and their efforts to practice motherhood while also protecting their children who might be sold away.

- 01] <https://pressbooks.library.torontomu.ca/incidentsinthelifeofaslavegirl/>
- 02] <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/incidents/summary/>
- 03] <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h2924.html>
- 04] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Harriet-Jacobs>
- 05] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-harriet>
- 06] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1837137/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

### Key aspects of her legacy

- ***Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl***: Her powerful narrative exposed the specific brutalities faced by enslaved women, including sexual abuse, and emphasized the deep bonds of motherhood as a source of strength and resistance.
- **Voice for Enslaved Women**: By writing under a pseudonym, she defied societal expectations, giving a crucial, personal voice to the experiences often silenced in male-dominated abolitionist accounts.
- **Abolitionist & Educator**: After escaping, she actively worked for the abolitionist cause, founding schools for freed slaves and advocating for Black refugees during the Civil War.
- **Perseverance & Resilience**: Her story of enduring abuse, hiding for years, and fighting for her family's freedom embodies extraordinary determination and resilience.
- **Enduring Literary & Historical Significance**: Her work is required reading in many schools, celebrated for its literary quality, and studied for its profound insights into American slavery, race, and gender.

01] <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/glihist/3/>

02] <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2024/11/22/harriet-jacobs-house-cambridge-legacy/>

03] <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/news/2021/02/20/the-legacy-of-harriet-jacobs>

### Quotable QUOTES

- ✓ When he told me that I was made for his use, made to obey his command in every thing; that I was nothing but a slave, whose will must and should surrender to his, never before had my puny arm felt half so strong.
- ✓ Slavery is terrible for men; but it is far more terrible for women. Superadded to the burden common to all, they have wrongs, and sufferings, and mortifications peculiarly their own.
- ✓ [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4369397.Harriet\\_Ann\\_Jacobs](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4369397.Harriet_Ann_Jacobs)
- ✓ <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/harriet-ann-jacobs-quotes>
- ✓ [https://www.azquotes.com/author/7294-Harriet\\_Ann\\_Jacobs](https://www.azquotes.com/author/7294-Harriet_Ann_Jacobs)
- ✓ <https://bookroo.com/quotes/harriet-ann-jacobs>





## JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

(C.1819-C.1891)

"All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."

### Some Interesting Videos

01] Early Poems by James Russell LOWELL read by Various | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ht-wMkeeT4A> [3:32:41]

02] Miscellaneous Poems by James Russell Lowell read by Various | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90TGeNawZQo> [6:41:10]

03] The Fountain by James Russell Lowell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruJxTRlbOgY> [48:05]

04] The Vision of Sir Launfal and Other Poems - James Russell Lowell | Full Audiobook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qIZdTjifJE> [2:42:32]

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### Key Contributions & Impact

- **Abolitionism & Social Reform:** A staunch anti-slavery advocate, he used poetry and journalism (like editing *The Pioneer*) to promote abolition, deeply influenced by his wife Maria White Lowell.
- **Literary Innovation:** He pioneered the use of American vernacular in serious literature, inspiring writers like Mark Twain, and created classic political satire with *The Biglow Papers*.
- **Literary Criticism:** As editor of *The North American Review*, he wrote insightful essays on major figures like Dante and Shakespeare, showcased in *Among My Books*, demonstrating unparalleled critical range for his time.
- **Fireside Poet:** He was a key member of the "fireside poets group, known for accessible and morally resonant poetry, including powerful Civil War odes like the "Ode Recited at the *Harvard Commemoration*".
- **Diplomatic Service:** His support for the Republican party led to appointments as U.S. Minister to Spain and then Ambassador to Great Britain, where he gained immense popularity.
- **Versatility:** Lowell excelled across poetry, essays, journalism, and diplomacy, making him a central figure in American cultural life.

- **Cultural Importance:** He helped shape American literary identity, blending high culture with New World democratic ideals and vernacular speech, leaving a mark on figures from Howells to Mencken.

### Some Web Pages

- 01] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/james-russell-lowell>
- 02] <https://poets.org/poet/james-russell-lowell>
- 03] [https://www.poetry-archive.com/l/lowell\\_james\\_russell\\_bibliography/](https://www.poetry-archive.com/l/lowell_james_russell_bibliography/)
- 04] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/james-russell-lowell-poems>
- 05] <https://www.excellence-in-literature.com/james-russell-lowell-bio-1911-eb/>
- 06] <https://www.nps.gov/people/james-russell-lowell.htm>

## **POEMS**

OF

**JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL**

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/38520/38520-h/38520-h.htm>

*WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH*

BY

*NATHAN HASKELL DOLE*

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## **The Complete Poetical Works of**

**James Russell Lowell** by James Russell Lowell

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/13310>

"The Complete Poetical Works of James Russell Lowell" by James Russell Lowell is a collection of the author's poems compiled during the late 19th century. The anthology showcases a rich tapestry of themes ranging from love and nature to social commentary and personal reflection, capturing the essence of Lowell's lyrical prowess and his engagement with contemporary issues of his time. The opening of the collection presents an array of poems such as "Threnodia," "The Sirens," and "Irené," each delving into various emotions and experiences. The poems exhibit Lowell's mastery of language, inviting readers to explore deep feelings of love, loss, and longing, while also revealing insights into human nature and the natural world. These early verses set the stage for a broader thematic exploration within the compilation, illustrating Lowell's commitment to both personal and universal human experiences through evocative imagery and heartfelt sentiments.

## Books of James Russell Lowell

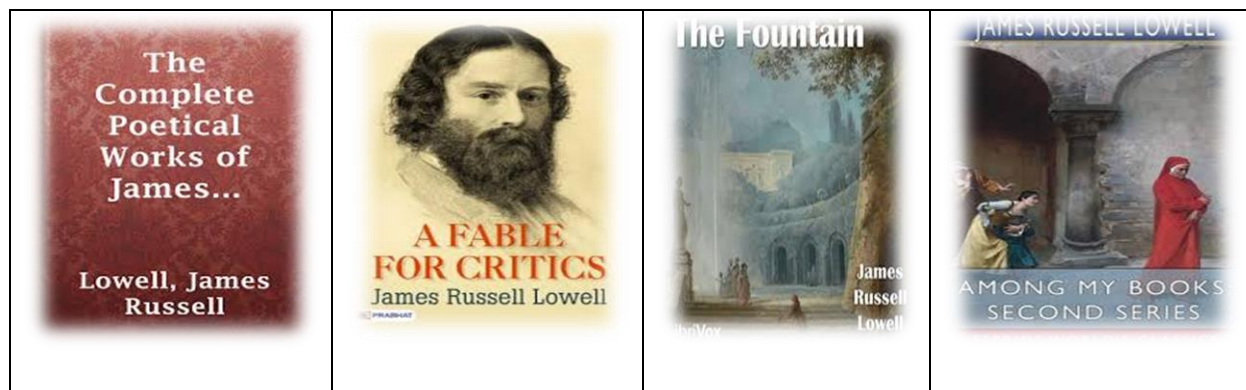


Throughout his literary career, James Russell Lowell wore many hats, from son of Cambridge and Fireside Poet to author, essayist, critic, editor, diplomat, and abolitionist. Although prolific with word usage and selected as Class Poet by the Harvard class of 1838, Lowell was suspended from attending pre-graduation festivities due to truancy and delinquency. During this period of exile from the Cambridge campus, the 19-year-old stayed with Reverend Barzillai Frost (1804-1858) in Concord, Massachusetts, where the young man met Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) and Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862). While Lowell held more conservative views than the Transcendentalists did, he wrote to friends about the Concord men with a mix of respect, fondness, aloofness, and mockery.

01] <https://www.walden.org/what-we-do/library/thoreau/james-russell-lowell-1819-1891/>

02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8503>

03] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/456>





## WALT WHITMAN

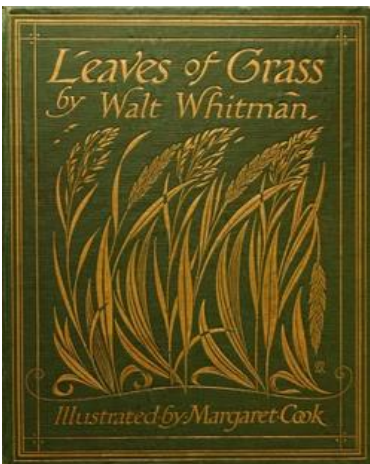
(1819-1892)

"All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."

Compiled by

Sanju R <::> Reg No. 243313111002

### His Works/Books



*Leaves of Grass* is a poetry collection by American poet Walt Whitman. After self-publishing it in 1855, he spent most of his professional life writing, revising, and expanding the collection until his death in 1892. Either six or nine separate editions of the book were produced, depending on how one defines a new edition. The continual modifications to *Leaves of Grass* resulted in vastly different copies of it circulating in Whitman's lifetime. The first edition was a slim tract of twelve poems, and the last was a compilation of over 400 poems.

The book represents a celebration of Whitman's philosophy of life and humanity in which he praises nature and the individual's role in it. He catalogues the expansiveness of American democracy. Rather than dwell on religious or spiritual themes, he focuses primarily on the body and the material world. With very few exceptions, Whitman's poems do not rhyme or follow conventional rules for meter and line length.

*Leaves of Grass* was notable for its discussion of delight in sensual pleasures at a time when such candid displays were considered immoral. The book was highly controversial for its explicit sexual imagery, and Whitman was subject to derision by many contemporary critics. Over



the decades, however, the collection has infiltrated popular culture and become recognized as one of the central works of American poetry.

Among the poems in the early *Leaves of Grass* editions (albeit sometimes under different titles) were "[Song of Myself](#)", "[Song of the Open Road](#)", "[I Sing the Body Electric](#)", "[Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking](#)", and "[Crossing Brooklyn Ferry](#)". Later editions would contain Whitman's [elegy](#) to the [assassinated](#) President [Abraham Lincoln](#), "[When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd](#)".

01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/600>

02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/58843>

03] <https://www.loa.org/books/76-poetry-amp-prose/>

04] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/walt-whitman>

### Key Works Reflecting His Life

- **[Leaves of Grass](#)**: This iconic poetry collection, first published in 1855, was constantly revised and expanded throughout his life, becoming an autobiographical epic capturing his American experience, philosophy, and evolving self.
- **[Specimen Days](#)**: A collection of prose writings, including diary entries from his time as a volunteer nurse in Washington D.C. during the Civil War (often called *Memoranda During the War*), and later essays reflecting on nature and his recovery from illness in Camden, New Jersey.
- **[Memories of Lincoln](#)**: A series of poems and lectures, including famous works like "O Captain! My Captain!", detailing his profound grief and admiration for Abraham Lincoln after the assassination.
- **Letters & Notebooks**: His extensive correspondence and diaries offer direct insights into his daily life, thoughts, and experiences.
- **American Identity**: A lifelong effort to capture the essence of the burgeoning nation.
- **Civil War Experience**: Painful, firsthand accounts from the hospital wards, focusing on suffering, healing, and camaraderie.
- **Nature & Recovery**: His profound connection to the natural world as a source of healing and inspiration.
- **Self & Soul**: An exploration of the individual within the collective, a central theme of *Leaves of Grass*.

## Important Videos

01] Fluid Crossings: A Transatlantic Celebration of Walt Whitman's Radical Cultural Legacy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAtaCsrAJ1U> [1:25:36]

02] Poet of the Body: Walt Whitman from Archive to Classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcvJljRUXpU> [1:11:40]

03] Walker Brents III: Whitman's Democratic Vistas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaBI6UiCl68> [1:18:28]

04] Leaves of Grass Part 1/2 Full Audiobook by Walt WHITMAN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ9Y9yWX-NY> [10:18:45]

05] Walt Whitman's Time in New Orleans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Yi1bb9cwWA> [57:14]

06] Marlon James with Isaac Fitzgerald: Walt Whitman Writers Series

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8\\_-w6TNntk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8_-w6TNntk) [1:01:21]



## Memories of Lincoln by Walt Whitman

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/60505>

"**Memories of Lincoln**" by Walt Whitman is a poignant collection of poems and reflections that celebrate the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, written in the late 19th century. This work captures the profound emotional response to Lincoln's assassination and the impact he had on the nation during a tumultuous period in American history. Through a blend of personal elegy and national history, Whitman reflects on themes of loss, heroism, and the human condition. The collection features several notable poems, including "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" and "O Captain! My Captain!", which express Whitman's grief over Lincoln's death while also paying tribute to his leadership and vision. Whitman employs natural imagery and profound symbolism to convey his sorrow, portraying Lincoln as a figure of tragic greatness. The poems discuss the collective mourning of a nation and illuminate the ways in which Lincoln's spirit resonates through the lives of those he touched. Overall, "Memories of Lincoln" serves as a heartfelt tribute that intertwines personal loss with a broader commentary on American identity and the enduring legacy of its beloved leader.



## The WALT WHITMAN Archive

<https://whitmanarchive.org/about>

The *Walt Whitman Archive* endeavors to make Whitman's vast work freely and conveniently accessible to scholars, students, and general readers. Whitman, America's most influential poet and a writer of global renown, is the most challenging of all American authors in terms of the textual difficulties his work presents. His major life work, *Leaves of Grass*, went through six very different editions, each of which was issued in a number of formats, creating a book that is probably best studied as numerous distinct creations rather than as a single revised work. His many other writings—varied and significant—include fiction, notebooks, manuscript fragments, prose essays, letters, marginalia, and voluminous journalistic articles. Drawing on the resources of libraries and collections from around the world, the *Whitman Archive* is the most comprehensive record of works by and about Whitman—and continues to grow. The *Archive* is directed by Matt Cohen (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), Kenneth M. Price (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), and Ed Folsom (University of Iowa), with ongoing contributions from many other editor-scholars, students, information professionals, and technologists.

## "This heart's Geography Map"

### The Photographs of Walt Whitman

<https://whitmanarchive.org/pictures-sound-video/gallery-of-images/introduction>

No author's life in the nineteenth century was more continuously photographed than Whitman's (Mark Twain had more photos taken, but many of the most familiar ones were in the twentieth century). "No man has been photographed more than I have," he once said, and many contemporary observers agreed with his assessment. At times he seemed fatigued with the profusion of images: "I have been photographed, photographed, photographed, until the cameras themselves are tired of me." Looking at the hopeless clutter of photographs scattered around him in his Camden room in the late 1880s, unable to identify the dates and circumstances of many of them, Whitman lamented, "I have been photographed to confusion." "I've been taken and taken beyond count," he said, "taken from every side—even from my blind side." At times he made it sound as if photographers had hounded him into sitting for them and had used him mercilessly: "They have photographed me all ages, sizes, shapes: they have used me for a show-horse again and again and again." His photographs, reproduced and widely distributed by various photographers and by Whitman himself, had made him something of a celebrity: "my head gets about: is easily recognized." Stumbling upon photos of himself he had forgotten had been taken, he joked, "I meet new Walt Whitmans every day. There is a dozen of me afloat. I don't know which Walt Whitman I am."

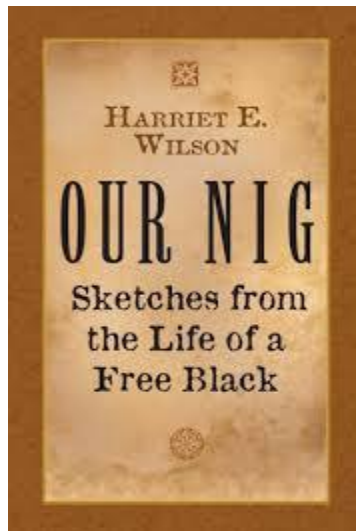


## HARRIET E. WILSON (1825-1900)

"Thus, she lived for years, hugging her wrongs, but making no effort to escape. She had never known plenty, scarcely competency; but the present was beyond comparison with those innocent years when the coronet of virtue was hers."

### *Our Nig*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our\\_Nig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Nig)



*Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* is an autobiographical novel by Harriet E. Wilson. First published in 1859, it was rediscovered in 1981 by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and was subsequently reissued with an introduction by Gates (London: Allison & Busby, 1984). *Our Nig* has since been republished in several other editions. It was long considered the first novel published by an African-American woman in North America, though that record is now contested by another manuscript found by Gates, *The Bondwoman's Narrative*, which may have been written a few years earlier.

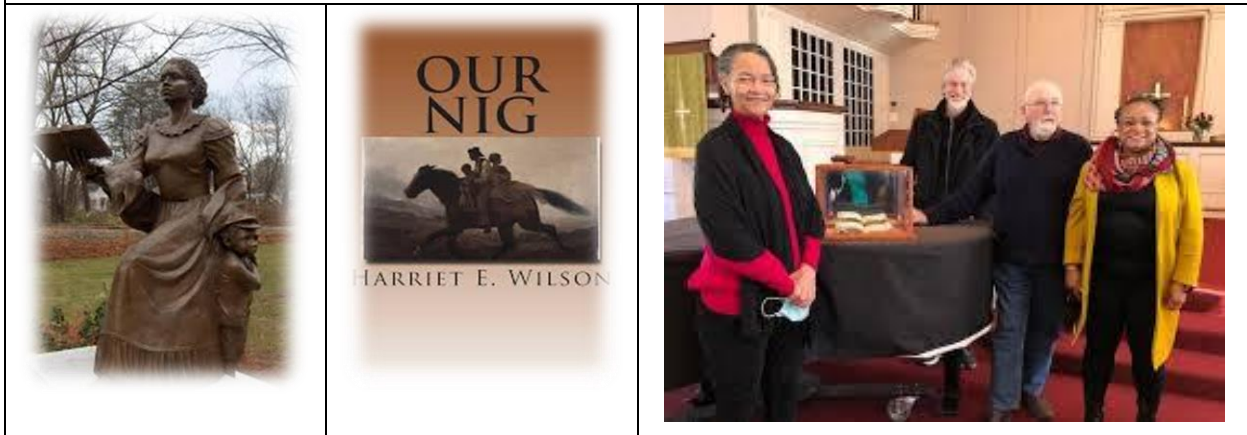
### Key Aspects of Harriet E. Wilson's Legacy

Harriet E. Wilson (c. 1825-1900) left a profound legacy as the first African American woman to publish a novel in the United States, *Our Nig; or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (1859). Rediscovered in 1983, her autobiographical work challenged the narrative of a free North by depicting her life as an indentured servant. She is honored with a statue in Milford, NH.

- **Literary Milestone:** *Our Nig* was published in Boston in 1859, making her a pioneering Black author. For over a century, the author was believed to be white, until scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. identified her, placing her ahead of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1892) as the first African American woman to publish a novel.



- **Autobiographical Revelation:** The novel, written to support her survival, provided a rare, firsthand account of the racism, abuse, and servitude experienced by a mixed-race woman in the "free" Northern United States.
- **Rediscovery and Recognition:** The 1983 republication of her work by Henry Louis Gates Jr. brought her from obscurity to prominence, highlighting her unique contribution to American literature.
- **Honored in Milford, New Hampshire:** In 2006, a statue of Wilson by Fern Cunningham was dedicated in Bicentennial Park in Milford, NH, her birthplace. Additional historical markers honor her, including one at the Nehemiah Hayward Homestead.
- **Resilience and Life:** Beyond her writing, she was known as a spiritualist, healer, and housekeeper in Boston. Her story is celebrated as a testament to, in the words of Ruby Dee, "her life, her spirit, and her legacy of resilience".



### **Key honors and recognitions**

Harriet E. Wilson (1825-1900) is honored as the first African American to publish a novel in the U.S., [Our Nig](#) (1859). She is recognized for her courage in exposing Northern racism. Key tributes include a [statue in Milford, NH, by Fern Cunningham \(2006\)](#) and historical markers installed in 2023 and 2025 by the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire.

- [The Harriet Wilson Project \(est. 2003\)](#): A non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness, celebrating her, and promoting black heritage in her birthplace of Milford, NH.
- [Bronze Statue \(2006\)](#): Located in Milford's Bicentennial Park, this was the first monument in New Hampshire to honor a person of color.

- **Historical Markers (2023, 2025):** The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire unveiled a marker in Milford on May 20, 2023, followed by a second marker at the Nehemiah Hayward Homestead in 2025.
- **Literary Legacy:** Rediscovered in 1982 by scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., her work is recognized for its unique, pioneering, and autobiographical portrayal of a free Black woman's struggles in the North.
- **New Hampshire Women's Heritage Trail:** She is highlighted as one of 27 women who influenced the state's history.
- [Official Proclamations](#): Governor Chris Sununu recognized her as a significant historical figure in 2017.

## **Video**

The fullness of our shared history | TerriAnne Boggis |

TEDxAmoskeagMillyard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8cWSWRkOU4> [22:02]

New Hampshire has long been considered one of the "whitest states in the union." But TerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, says that New Hampshire in fact has a rich African-American past. That past includes Harriet Wilson, the first Black woman to publish a novel in the United States, who was born and raised in Milford.

But until Boggis and a group of her fellow citizens commissioned a statue of Wilson, there had never been a statue in New Hampshire that honored a person of color. At the statue's unveiling, Boggis gained a new understanding of the importance of representation. In this talk, she examines the symbols that remind us of the past, the stories they have to tell, and the importance of engaging with them to confront our complicated shared history. TerriAnne Boggis moved to the United States from Jamaica in 1977. She wears several hats, including Executive Director of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, writer, educator, and community activist. She works to correct the historical record on the racial complexity and richness of New Hampshire's diverse past.

TerriAnne conceived, planned, and implemented the formation of the non-profit organization, The Harriet Wilson Project, designed to memorialize and honor Milford, New Hampshire's author, Harriet E. Wilson, the first black female to publish a novel. She also raised the monies needed to build a life-size memorial to honor Wilson; which was installed in Milford, NH, on November 4, 2006.



## WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

(1837-1920)

"The secret of the man who is universally interesting is that he is universally interested."

### His Works / Books

**01] A Traveler from Altruria** is a Utopian novel by William Dean Howells. It was first published in installments in The Cosmopolitan between November 1892 and October 1893, and eventually in book form by Harper & Brothers in 1894. The novel is a critique of unfettered capitalism and its consequences, and of the Gilded Age.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Traveler\\_from\\_Altruria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Traveler_from_Altruria)

**02] The Rise of Silas Lapham** is a realist novel by William Dean Howells published in 1885. The story follows the materialistic rise of Silas Lapham from rags to riches, and his ensuing moral susceptibility. Silas earns a fortune in the paint business, but he lacks social standards, which he tries to attain through his daughter's marriage into the aristocratic Corey family. Silas' morality does not fail him. He loses his money but makes the right moral decision when his partner proposes the unethical selling of the mills to English settlers.

A] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/97>

B] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/90553.William\\_Dean\\_Howells](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/90553.William_Dean_Howells)

C] <https://www.loa.org/books/51-novels-1886-1888/>

D] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/13691/william-dean-howells/>

E] <https://www.loa.org/writers/303-william-dean-howells/>

F] <https://spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/wdhowells/>

G] <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcapjpcqlclefindmkaj/https://spec.lib.miamioh.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Howells-biblio-txt.pdf>

### Key Aspects of His Legacy

- **Founder of American Realism:** Howells shifted American literature toward "the simple, honest, and natural," focusing on ordinary people and plausible, everyday conflicts.
- **Influential Editor:** During his tenure at *The Atlantic Monthly* (1871-1881) and later at *Harper's*, he shaped American literary taste, promoted the careers of major authors—including Mark Twain, Henry James, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Paul Laurence Dunbar—and introduced European realists like Tolstoy, Ibsen, and Zola to American readers.
- **Social Critic:** Howells used his novels to address urgent social issues, including labor rights, the trials resulting from the Haymarket affair, and economic inequality. He was a member of the Anti-Imperialist League and a founding member of the NAACP.
- **Key Works:** *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885) is his best-known novel, exploring the life of an American entrepreneur. Other significant works

include *A Modern Instance* (1882), which explored divorce, and *A Hazard of New Fortunes* (1889), which offered a panoramic view of New York City.

- **Literary Canonization:** He was among the first seven people chosen for the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1904, eventually becoming its president.

### Some selected Web Pages

- 01] <https://www.nyrb.com/collections/william-dean-howells>
- 02] <https://blog.oup.com/2017/09/william-dean-howells-gilded-age-excerpt/>
- 03] <https://archive.org/details/lifeinlettersofw02howe/mode/2up>
- 04] <https://www.loa.org/writers/303-william-dean-howells/>
- 05] <https://literariness.org/2018/06/10/analysis-of-william-dean-howells-novels/>
- 06] <https://cpl.org/ohio-author/william-dean-howells/>
- 07] <https://www.nytimes.com/1971/06/20/archives/william-dean-howells-an-american-life-by-kenneth-s-lynn-illustrated.html>

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### The WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS Society

[https://public.archive.wsu.edu/campbelld/public\\_html/howells/index.html](https://public.archive.wsu.edu/campbelld/public_html/howells/index.html)

The William Dean Howells Society is a scholarly organization for studying the American author and critic, [W. D. Howells](#), fostering discussion and research through panels at literary conferences, a publication called [The Howellsians](#), and online resources, aiming to share knowledge about his life, works, and influence on American Realism and literature. They organize sessions at the [American Literature Association \(ALA\) conferences](#), featuring papers on his extensive writing, media involvement, and connections to other writers.

### Years of My Youth by William Dean Howells

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/47060>

*"Years of My Youth"* by William Dean Howells is a memoir written in the early 20th century, offering a vivid recounting of the author's early years as he reflects on his childhood experiences in Ohio. The book aims to provide insight into Howells's formative years, focusing on his family background, early memories, and the environments that shaped him. The narrative promises to explore themes of personal growth and the rich tapestry of American life during the mid-19th century, providing



readers with a glimpse into the influences that may have informed his later literary career. The opening of the memoir introduces readers to Howells's recollections of his birth and early life in Martin's Ferry, Ohio. He reflects on the blend of family stories and genuine memories that comprise his childhood narrative, sharing details about his parents' lineage and early family dynamics. The text paints a picture of a young boy surrounded by a loving family, with connections to the history and culture of his heritage, influenced by the backdrop of small-town life in a time of great social and economic change. Howells's writing style conveys a sense of nostalgia, establishing the emotional landscape that readers can expect as they journey through his youthful experiences and the subsequent exploration of his identity.

### **Some Videos**

01] Years of My Youth by William Dean Howells read by Ted Lienhart | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqcQCW-LfHg> [7:49:11]

02] My Mark Twain by William Dean HOWELLS read by Denny Sayers | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0rfownJKHk> [3:42:09]

03] Indian Summer by William Dean HOWELLS read by Leonard Wilson Part 1/2 | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxMW09lueoI> [7:12:37]

04] Mark Twain Chapters from My Autobiography - FULL Audio Book

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_hI1o9\\_SG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_hI1o9_SG8) [10:35:03]

05] William Dean Howells's "Editha" (1905)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0G5HFsnN3Y> [1:25:07]

In this lecture, I'll be talking about a famous short story by William Dean Howells, "Editha", first published in 1905. Throughout the story, there is a clash between idealism - personified by Editha Balcom - and realism - symbolized by both George Gearson and Mrs. Gearson.

06] Twain and Howells On Each Other by William Dean Howells and Mark Twain – Audiobook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twqzyg-NHaI> [3:23:49]

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) and William Dean Howells were friends for 44 years. Their personal and professional relationship is considered by many to be one of the most important in American literature. Howells published his famous "My Mark Twain" in the same year Clemens died, 1910. A few years earlier, Clemens wrote this "remembrance" and "appreciation" of the man who stuck with him through the ups and downs of his long literary journey. (John Greenman)

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## SARAH ORNE JEWETT

(1849-1909)

"The secret to happiness in this world is not only to be useful, but to be forever elevating one's uses."

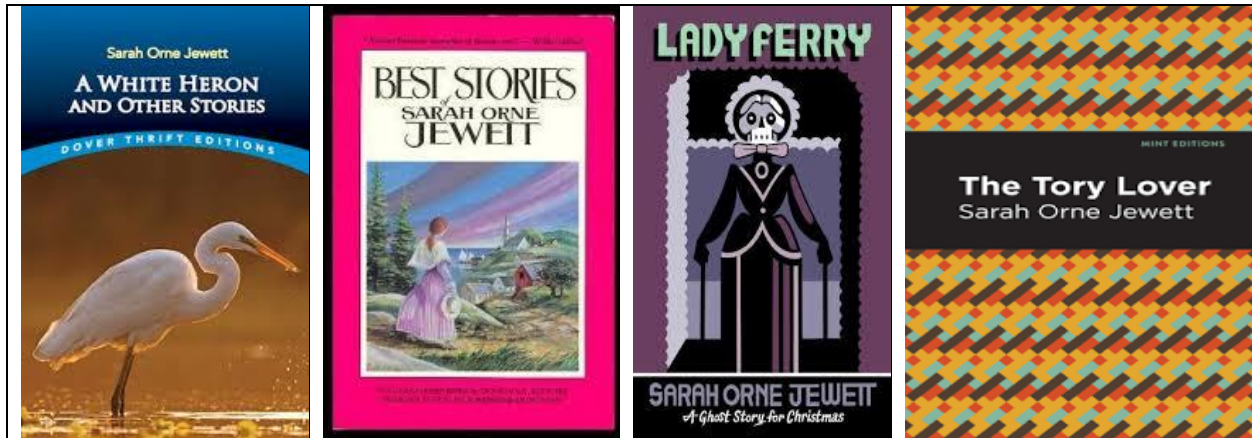
### Key Aspects of Her Legacy:

- **Regionalism Master:** Jewett perfected the "local color" movement, focusing on people and place over plot, capturing the distinct dialects, landscapes, and traditions of New England.
- **The Country of the Pointed Firs (1896):** Her most acclaimed work, this collection of linked stories is praised for its deep character studies and exploration of community, nature, and memory, considered an American classic.
- **Feminist Undertones:** While not a political activist, her stories feature self-reliant women, often unmarried, challenging traditional roles and offering rich insights into female friendships and lives, making her work a touchstone for feminist scholars.
- **Literary Influence:** She was a crucial mentor to Willa Cather, who dedicated her novel *O Pioneers!* to Jewett and acknowledged her impact on her own writing.
- **Style & Themes:** Known for her gentle realism, lyrical prose, and conversational tone, Jewett explored themes of home, isolation, nature's power, and the tension between the past and present.
- **Enduring Relevance:** Rediscovered by scholars, her work remains appreciated for its compassionate portrayal of a vanishing way of life and its complex, relatable characters, ensuring her place among America's important literary voices.

### Writing Style

- **Regionalism/Local Color:** Deeply rooted in Maine's culture, landscapes, and dialects, portraying specific places vividly.
- **Realism & Romanticism:** Blends realistic depiction with moments of deep emotional meaning, especially in nature.
- **Character-Driven:** Focuses on complex, three-dimensional characters, especially women, revealing inner lives and conflicts.
- **Descriptive & Precise:** Uses "fine touches," subtle observations, and strong sensory detail to create atmosphere and insight.
- **Sketch-like Structure:** Often uses linked stories or vignettes rather than strong linear plots, emphasizing theme and setting.
- **Quiet Emotional Depth:** Conveys deep feelings, loss, and joy through everyday events and understated narration.

- **Proto-Feminist:** Explores female strength, independence, and internal struggles against cultural limitations, notably in works like "[A White Heron](#)".
- Encouraged by [William Dean Howells](#) for her natural dialogue and descriptions.
- Precursor to later regionalists and modernists, influencing [Willa Cather](#).
- Praised for capturing a disappearing way of life and giving voice to ordinary people.



#### Web Links for BOOKS

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/202>
- 02] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/35817.Sarah\\_Orne\\_Jewett](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/35817.Sarah_Orne_Jewett)
- 03] <https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/biblio.html>
- 04] <https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb/collections/author-books-by-sarah-orne-jewett>
- 05] <https://www.dymocks.com.au/authors/sarah-orne-jewett>

#### Sarah Orne Jewett House

<https://jewett.house/>



Today, Sarah's beloved home is Sarah Orne Jewett House, a National Historic Landmark. Sarah Orne Jewett House reflects not only the Jewett sisters' eclectic tastes and their desire to preserve family's tradition, marrying Georgian architecture with Aesthetic Style; the house also reflects the life, work, and passion of Sarah, who created a life of artistic and literal freedom for herself in Victorian America. The Greek Revival house next door is a visitor center incorporating a museum store, programming space, and community meeting space.

## Quotable QUOTES

- Tact is after all a kind of mind-reading
- What has made this nation great? Not its heroes but its households
- There's more women like to be loved than there is of those that loves.
- I've found that people who look at things as they are, and not as they wish them to be, are the ones who succeed.
- It seems to me like stealing, for men and women to live in the world and do nothing to make it better.
- Do not hurry too fast in these early winter days, - a quiet hour is worth more to you than anything you can do in it.
- You must find your own quiet center of life, and write from that to the world.
- When I was as you are now, towering in the confidence of twenty-one, little did I suspect that I should be at forty-nine, what I now am.

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## Some Videos

01] **A Marsh Island by Sarah Orne Jewett**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N2D2OxM178> [1:07:06]

02] **CHRISTMAS IN MAINE Sarah Orne Jewett**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TRnhVI-6Rg> [46:32]

Travel to snowy Victorian Maine in this year's Christmas Special, as Katie reads from the memoirs of Sarah Orne Jewett. An immensely famous and beloved novelist in her day, Sarah wrote wholesome tales of the country folk of Maine, where as a child she had accompanied her physician father on his rounds.

03] **The Country of the Pointed Firs (Version 2) by Sarah Orne Jewett read by PhyllisV | Full Audio Book**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uF\\_1UgZaLAA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uF_1UgZaLAA) [5:52:18]

04] **TWO BELOVED SHORT STORIES BY SARAH ORNE JEWETT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHK4KGetKag> [41:53]

05] **Country of the Pointed Firs by Sarah Orne Jewett - FULL AUDIOBOOK**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xogY9F80r\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xogY9F80r_k) [4:25:31]

The Country of the Pointed Firs (1896) is considered Jewett's finest work, described by Henry James as her 'beautiful little quantum of achievement.' Despite James's diminutives, the novel remains a classic. Because it is loosely structured, many critics view the book not as a novel, but as a series of sketches; however, its structure is unified through both setting and theme. Jewett herself felt that her strengths as a writer lay not in plot development or dramatic tension, but in character development. Indeed, she determined early in her career to preserve a disappearing way of life, and her novel can be read as a study of the effects of isolation and hardship on the inhabitants who lived in the decaying fishing villages along the Maine coast.

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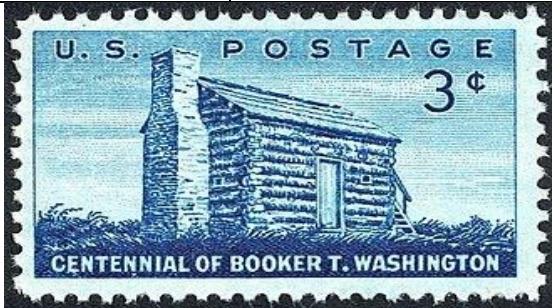




## BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

(1856-1915)

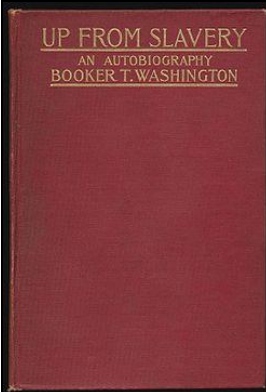
"Slavery presented a problem of destruction;  
freedom presents one of construction."



On the 100th anniversary of his birth, April 5, 1956, the US Post office issued a commemorative stamp depicting the birthplace of Booker T. Washington in Franklin County, Virginia



Booker T. Washington's coffin being carried to the grave site



[Up from Slavery](#) is the 1901 autobiography of the American educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915). The book describes his experience of working to rise up from being born a slave before the Civil War, the obstacles he overcame to get an education at the new Hampton Institute, and his work establishing vocational schools like the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to help Black people and other persecuted people of color learn useful, marketable skills and work to pull themselves, as a race, up by the bootstraps. He reflects on the generosity of teachers and philanthropists who helped educate Black and Native Americans. He describes his efforts to instill manners, breeding, health and dignity into students. His educational philosophy stresses combining academic subjects with learning a trade (reminiscent of John Ruskin). Washington explained that the integration of practical subjects is partly designed to "reassure the White community of the usefulness of educating Black people".

The book was first published as a serial in 1900 in The Outlook, a Christian newspaper of New York. It was serialized so that Washington could receive feedback from his audience during the writing and could adapt his work to his diverse audience.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Up\\_from\\_Slavery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Up_from_Slavery)

## Atlanta Compromise

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta\\_Compromise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Compromise)

The **Atlanta Compromise** (also known as **accommodation** or **accommodationism**) was a proposal put forth in 1895 by African American leader **Booker T. Washington** in a [speech](#) he gave at the [Cotton States and International Exposition](#). He urged [Black Southerners](#) to accept segregation and to temporarily refrain from campaigning for equal rights, including [the right to vote](#). In return, he advocated that Black people would receive basic legal protections, access to property ownership, employment opportunities, and vocational and industrial education. Upon the speech's conclusion, the white attendees gave Washington a standing ovation.



<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/booker-t-washington-and-atlanta-compromise>

## Some Important Web Pages

- 01] <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/washington-booker-t-1856-1915/>
- 02] <https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/booker-t-washington/>
- 03] <https://www.tuskegee.edu/legacy/booker-t-washington.html>
- 04] [https://www.ms54.org/who\\_was\\_booker\\_t\\_washington](https://www.ms54.org/who_was_booker_t_washington)
- 05] <https://www.nps.gov/bowa/index.htm>
- 06] <https://contingentmagazine.org/2021/04/05/the-strange-case-of-booker-t-washingtons-birthday/>
- 07] <https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-booker-t-washington>



## Chronology

- 01] <https://prezi.com/scdf2n0spuiy/timeline-of-booker-t-washington/>
- 02] <https://www.timetoast.com/timelines/booker-t-washington--7>
- 03] <https://www.britannica.com/summary/Booker-T-Washington-Timeline>
- 04] <https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-booker-t-washington>
- 05] <https://www.nps.gov/bowa/learn/historyculture/washington-timeline.htm>
- 06] [https://softschools.com/timelines/booker\\_t\\_washington\\_timeline/138/](https://softschools.com/timelines/booker_t_washington_timeline/138/)

## Quotable QUOTES

1. The happiest people are those who do the most for others. The most miserable are those who do the least.
2. Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome
3. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.
4. Character, not circumstances, makes the man.
5. Opportunities never come a second time, nor do they wait for our leisure.

01] [https://www.azquotes.com/author/15322-Booker\\_T\\_Washington](https://www.azquotes.com/author/15322-Booker_T_Washington)

02] <https://tomjoynerfoundation.org/top-15-quotes-to-remember-by-booker-t-washington/>

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## Videos

01] Booker T. Washington: The Man and His Legacy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgniWQBkGk> [59:16]

02] Diana Schaub: The Life and Ideas of Booker T. Washington

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQvQbvy6nFM> [1:01:19]

03] Booker T. Washington - Up From Slavery | Read by Ossie Davis (1976)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaEIY97HMXU> [1:42:27]

Up from Slavery is the 1901 autobiography of American educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915). The book describes his personal experience of having to work to rise up from the position of a slave child during the Civil War, to the difficulties and obstacles he overcame to get an education at the new Hampton Institute, to his work establishing vocational schools—most notably the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama—to help black people and other disadvantaged minorities learn useful, marketable skills and work to pull themselves, as a race, up by the bootstraps. He reflects on the generosity of both teachers and philanthropists who helped in educating blacks and Native Americans. He describes his efforts to instill manners, breeding, health and a feeling of dignity to students. His educational philosophy stresses combining academic subjects with learning a trade (something which is reminiscent of the educational theories of John Ruskin). Washington explained that the integration of practical subjects is partly designed to reassure the white community as to the usefulness of educating black people.

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## CHARLES WADDELL CHESNUTT

(1858-1932)

"Impossibilities are merely things of which we have not learned, or which we do not wish to happen."

### Books adapted in Films

In 1926, *The Conjure Woman* was adapted by [Oscar Micheaux](#) into [a film of the same name](#).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Conjure\\_Woman\\_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Conjure_Woman_(film))

In 1927, *The House Behind the Cedars* was adapted by Oscar Micheaux into [a film of the same name](#).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_House\\_Behind\\_the\\_Cedars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_House_Behind_the_Cedars)

In 2008, Dante James, a student at Duke University, made a film adaptation of *The Doll*, one of Chesnutt's short stories. This story was first published in *The Crisis* in 1912. It was for a course entitled "Adapting Literature, Producing Film". The film premiered at the [San Diego Black Film Festival](#) on January 31, 2008, where [Clayton LeBouef](#) won an award for "Best Actor". It also won "Best Short Film" at The Sweet Auburn International Film Festival, and the "Short Film" award at the [Hollywood Black Film Festival](#)

### Literary Contributions & Style

- **Realism and Satire**: He used a realist style with subtle satire to critique racial prejudice, counter Lost Cause narratives, and expose the hypocrisy within both white and Black communities, according to Wikipedia and Notable Folklorists of Color.
- **Themes**: His stories and novels, like *The Conjure Woman* and *The Marrow of Tradition*, explored slavery's legacy, the struggles of the Black middle class, colorism, and the challenges faced by mixed-race individuals.
- **Pioneering Publication**: He was the first African American author published in *The Atlantic Monthly* (with "The Goophered Grapevine"), opening doors for Black voices.
- **Multi-talented**: Beyond writing, he was a successful lawyer, court reporter, and businessman in Cleveland, and a principal at Fayetteville State University (then the Howard School).
- **Activism**: His work often stemmed from his civil rights activism, addressing issues like the Wilmington Massacre in *The Marrow of Tradition*, says Notable Folklorists of Color.



- **Spingarn Medal**: Awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal in 1928 for his literary and political achievements.
- **Posthumous Revival**: A scholarly revival in recent decades, led by scholars like William L. Andrews, has brought his complex works back into focus, leading to new publications and inclusion in the Library of America.

### **Rewards & Awards**

- **Honorary Doctorate**: Awarded an LL.D. from Wilberforce University in 1913.
- **Spingarn Medal**: Received the NAACP's prestigious Spingarn Medal in 1928 for his literary and political achievements in portraying African American life and struggle.
- **Library of America**: A major collection of his works was added to the series in 2002, cementing his place in American literary canon.
- **U.S. Postal Stamp**: Honored in 2008 with a stamp in the Black Heritage Series for his significant contributions.

### **SOME VIDEOS**

01] **Charles Waddell Chesnutt: The Civic Life of a Cleveland Creative A talk by Regennia N. Williams, PhD**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9ozFY1IupI> [1:47:21]

02] **The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line by Charles Waddell Chesnutt - Audiobook**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACQGy1wZOIM> [6:30:28]

03] **Conjure Woman by Charles Waddell Chesnutt - Full Audiobook (English)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NDsT4wkAIk> [3:06:31]

In "Conjure Woman," Charles Waddell Chesnutt brings alive the enchanted world of the South, entwining folk tales, mystery, and racial themes. The novel slyly captures the dialect and essence of the African American community following the Civil War, painting vivid scenes of their traditions, superstitions, and magical folk Belmont. Chesnutt introduces us to Uncle Julius, a former slave, and skilled raconteur, who uses his storytelling skills to cleverly exploit his naive white employers. Delve into this timeless classic that holds an unflinching mirror to racial stereotypes, while fiercely preserving a rich cultural heritage.

04] **The Marrow of Tradition - Charles Waddell Chesnutt | Full Audiobook**

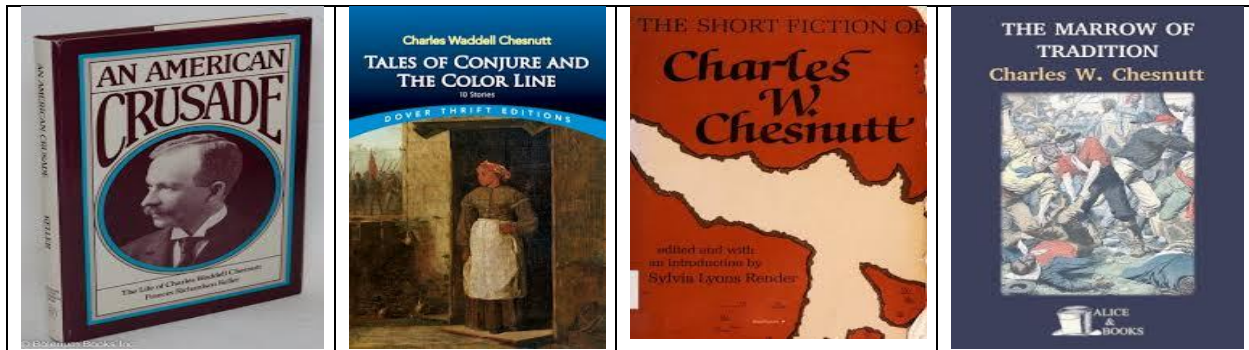
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK1CCh5OY78> [9:52:15]

05] **Rafael Walker, "The Mixed-Race Fiction of Charles Chesnutt and Mark Twain"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQEXS2iGGso> [52:28]

In the 1890s—the decade that yielded the Plessy decision allowing segregation in the U.S.—Charles Waddell Chesnutt and Mark Twain wrote fiction demonstrating the arbitrariness of race, at a time when many of their compatriots were insisting on its primacy. Interestingly, both sought to subvert racial and racist thinking through writing stories about mixed-race people, a demographic straddling the deepening color line that W.E.B. Du Bois would designate a decade later as THE “problem of the twentieth century.”

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- 01] <https://www.loa.org/books/176-stories-novels-and-essays/>
- 02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/252>
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/57827.Charles_W_Chesnutt
- 04] <https://www.dukeupress.edu/the-journals-of-charles-w-chesnutt> [Journal]
- 05] https://books.google.co.in/books?id=8zBC1-R_5cUC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_atb&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false
- 06] <https://www.powells.com/books/search?query=Chesnutt+Charles+W&page=1>

[The Charles W Chesnutt Archive](https://chesnuttarchive.org/)

<https://chesnuttarchive.org/>

The Charles W. Chesnutt Archive seeks to make Chesnutt's writings conveniently accessible to all. Writing in the years after Reconstruction as white supremacy took new virulent forms, Chesnutt addressed topics of vital concern, then and now, including race, identity, violence, class, and the familial and economic relations that zigzag across America's color line. During his lifetime he published six major book-length works (two collections of short stories, three novels, and a biography of Frederick Douglass) as well as more than sixty stories in both the Black and White press, which, through newspaper syndication as well as nationally distributed magazines, reached readers across the country.

Quintessential Quotable QUOTES

- "I have no race prejudice... but we people of mixed blood are ground between the upper and the nether millstone. Our fate lies between absorption by the white race and extinction in the black. The one doesn't want us yet, but may take us in time. The other would welcome us, but it would be for us a backward step."
- "Race prejudice is the devil unchained."
- "Those that set in motion the forces of evil cannot always control them afterwards."
- "We are all puppets in the hands of fate and seldom see the strings."
- "As man sows, so shall he reap. In works of fiction, such men are sometimes converted. More often, in real life, they do not change their natures until they are converted into dust."
- "We sometimes underestimate the influence of little things."



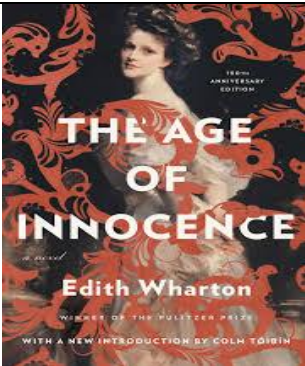
EDITH WHARTON

(1862-1937)

"There are two ways to spread happiness; either be the light who shines it or be the mirror who reflects it."

Compiled by

Jemima Rachel J <::> Reg No. 243313111001



The Age of Innocence is a novel by American author [Edith Wharton](#), published on 25 October 1920. It was her eighth novel, and was initially serialized in 1920 in four parts, in the magazine [Pictorial Review](#). Later that year, it was released as a book by [D. Appleton & Company](#). It won the [1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#), making Wharton the **first woman to win the prize**. Though the committee had initially agreed to give the award to [Sinclair Lewis](#) for [Main Street](#), the judges, in rejecting his book on political grounds, "established Wharton as the American 'First Lady of Letters'". The story is set in the 1870s, in upper-class, "[Gilded Age](#)" New York City. Wharton wrote the book in her 50s, after she was already established as a major author in high demand by publishers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Age_of_Innocence



The Literary Legacy of Edith Wharton

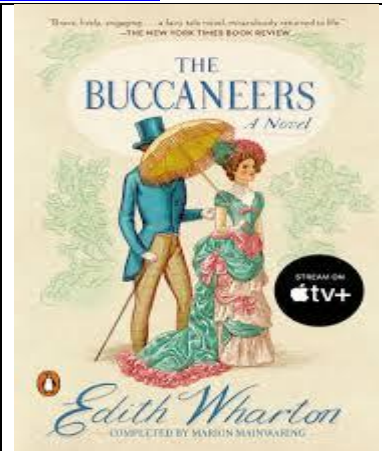
<https://headstuff.org/culture/literature/the-literary-legacy-of-edith-wharton/>

A matter of months ago, *Smithsonian Magazine* **recognized** Edith Wharton as one of the most significant Americans of all time, alongside household names such as Abraham Lincoln, Henry Ford, and Oprah. It wasn't Wharton's first time standing among the elite.

When World War I began, Wharton was living in Paris. She took an active role in fundraising and charity on behalf of the French war effort, founded a

refugee hostel and a rescue committee for war victims, and even travelled to the front lines to write a series of articles for Scribner's Magazine. In 1916, she was awarded the **French Legion of Honor**.

<https://www.oreateai.com/blog/the-enduring-legacy-of-edith-wharton-a-voice-for-the-ages/3771196c1391c8fce62c67c9d011b207>



Her Works / Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/16.Edith_Wharton
- 02] <https://edithwharton.org/discover/published-works/>
- 03] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/32944/edith-wharton/>
- 04] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/104>
- 05] <https://www.loa.org/books/77-novels/>
- 06] <https://wordsworth-editions.com/book-author/wharton-edith/>

Primary Memoir

Edith Wharton's primary memoir is "**A Backward Glance**," published in 1934, offering reflections on her privileged New York upbringing, European travels, literary successes, and friendships, notably with Henry James, detailing her sophisticated world and personal journey. While she wrote many autobiographical fragments like "Life & I," *A Backward Glance* served as her main published autobiographical work, revealing insights into her private life, marriage, and creative process.

Key Aspects of Her Memoirs & Life Writing

- **A Backward Glance:** Covers her affluent youth, marriage to Teddy Wharton, unhappy divorce, move to France, and literary achievements, noted for its crisp style.
- **Themes:** Explores themes of society, love, and artistic ambition, often contrasting her public persona with private struggles.
- **Personal Life:** Details her complex relationship with her husband, her deep friendship with [Henry James](#), and her humanitarian work during WWI.

- **Early Writings:** Earlier autobiographical notes, like "Life & I," provided material for *A Backward Glance*, showing a gradual shift from personal disclosure to more discreet self-representation.
- **Creative Process:** Her manuscripts and notebooks reveal her creative process, including drafts and outlines for her famous novels like [The House of Mirth](#) and [The Age of Innocence](#).

Also visit>>: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25080747>

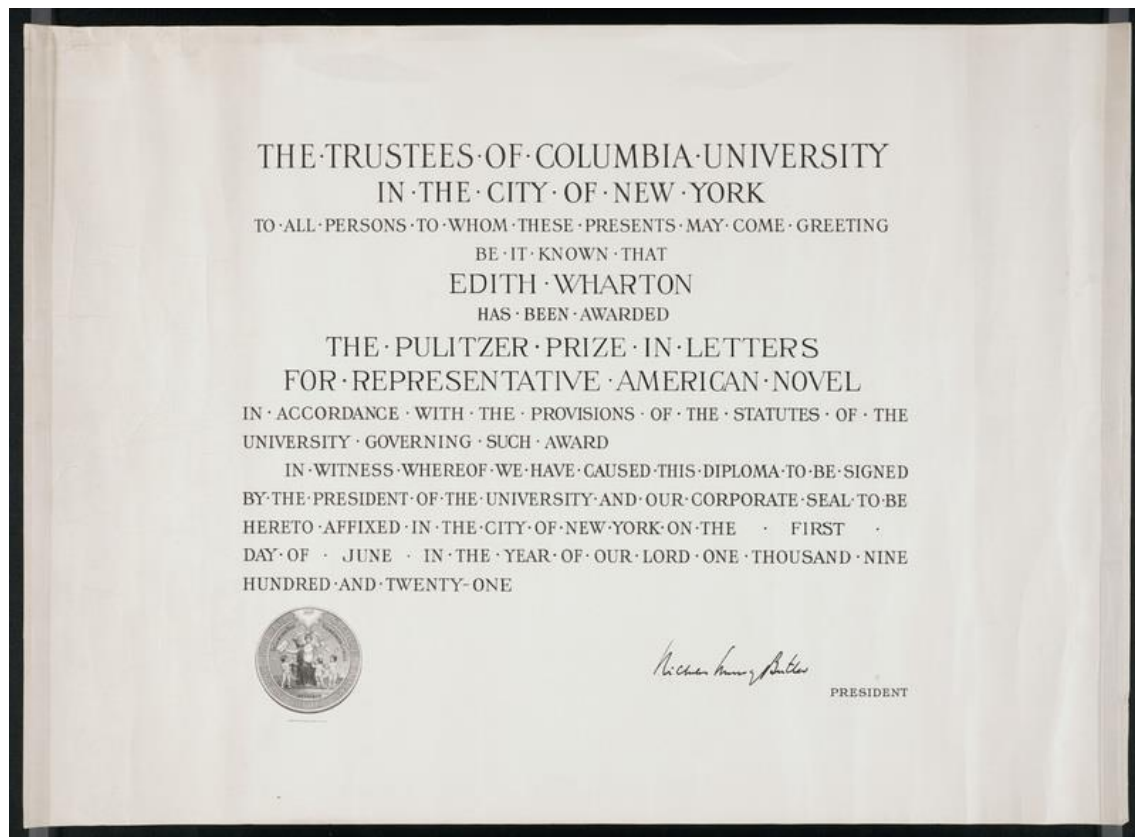
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Pulitzer Prize

<https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/edith-wharton/page/a-pulitzer-for-the-age-of-innocence>

A PULITZER FOR THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

In 1921 Wharton became the first woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize. She received her award for *The Age of Innocence*, in the Novel category, now known as the Fiction prize. *The Age of Innocence* appeared first in serial form in the *Pictorial Review* in 1920 and was later published as a book by D. Appleton and Company.



Women's History Month

Edith Wharton

<https://english.colostate.edu/news/womens-history-month-edith-wharton/>

Edith Wharton may not have published her first novel until she was 40 years old, but she was a prolific writer who actually began writing poetry and fiction as a young girl, even writing a novella at age eleven. Publishing was seen as something women, especially those of her class, didn't do (their goal was supposed to be obtaining a "good" marriage) so even though she continued to write and publish — in secret, privately, and anonymously or under another name — she was much older when she finally became known as a writer.

Later in her life, living in Paris when World War I broke out, Wharton used her status and wealth to establish workrooms for unemployed seamstresses, convalescent homes for tuberculosis sufferers, hostels for refugees, and schools for children fleeing war-torn Belgium.

In addition to her fifteen novels, seven novellas, and eighty-five short stories, Wharton published poetry, books on design, travel, literary and cultural criticism, and a memoir. Her novel *The Age of Innocence* won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for literature, making Wharton the first woman to win the award. She was also nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1927, 1928 and 1930. Besides being the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize, she also received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University and a full membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

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Some Videos

01] Edith Wharton documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-8lzVSrxsc> [56:42]

02] The Age of Innocence (1993) | Criteria: The Catholic Film Podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyznN1eKzUA> [1:01:57]

The Age of Innocence may come as a surprise to those who associate Martin Scorsese with movies about gangsters. Based on Edith Wharton's novel, it's a sumptuous period romance set in late-19th-century Manhattan high society. Intriguingly, Scorsese described it as his "most violent film", though not so much as a punch is thrown: the violence portrayed is interior and social, not physical, in this depiction of a romance thwarted by the constricting social norms of the upper class.

03] The Secret World of Edith Wharton: The Woman Who Exposed the Gilded Age

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1zQ77qwN5Q> [1:08:34]

04] Afterward - Edith Wharton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m16WcPaeXrQ> [1:06:39]



EDGAR LEE MASTERS

(1868-1950)

"Those who first oppose a good work, seize it and make it their own, when the cornerstone is laid and memorial tablets are erected."

SPoon RIVER ANTHOLOGY



Edgar Lee Masters

Spoon River Anthology

Spoon River Anthology is a 1915 collection of short free verse poems by Edgar Lee Masters. The poems collectively narrate the epitaphs of the residents of Spoon River, a fictional small town named after the Spoon River, which ran near Masters's home town of Lewistown, Illinois. The aim of the poems is to demystify rural and small-town American life. The collection includes 212 separate characters, in all providing 244 accounts of their lives, losses, and manners of death. Many of the poems contain cross-references that create a candid tapestry of the community. The poems originally were published in 1914 in the St. Louis, Missouri, literary journal *Reedy's Mirror*, under the pseudonym Webster Ford.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spoon_River_Anthology

Key Aspects of His Legacy

- ***Spoon River Anthology* (1915)**: His most enduring work, featuring 245 epitaphs from dead residents of a fictional Illinois town, exposing secrets, moral decay, and unrealized dreams through their voices, challenging idyllic small-town myths.
- **Literary Modernism**: Pioneered free verse and realistic portrayal of American life, using a graveyard setting to reveal truths, paving the way for later modernists.
- **Critique of Small-Town Life**: Unmasked the hypocrisy, gossip, and repression beneath the surface of seemingly virtuous Midwestern communities, a theme resonating with later regionalist writers.
- **Prolific but Overlooked Author**: Wrote numerous other books (poetry, novels, biographies of Lincoln, Twain, Whitman), but these are often overshadowed by *Spoon River*, limiting his broad recognition in the U.S.
- **Influences & Ideals**: Deeply influenced by classical literature, Goethe, Emerson, and especially [Walt Whitman](#), Masters sought to create a truly American art celebrating democracy, a vision he explored extensively in his other writings.

- **International Impact:** While less known in the U.S., *Spoon River* became very popular in Italy, highlighting different cultural receptions of his work.

Some selected Web Pages

- 01] <https://poetryinvoice.ca/read/poets/edgar-lee-masters>
- 02] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/edgar-lee-masters-poems>
- 03] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edgar-Lee-Masters>
- 04] <https://poets.org/poet/edgar-lee-masters>
- 05] <https://poemanalysis.com/edgar-lee-masters/biography/>
- 06] <https://allpoetry.com/Edgar-Lee-Masters>
- 07] <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/american-poets-of-the-20th-century/the-poets/edgar-lee-masters-18681950>

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His Works / Books

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/584>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/126468.Edgar_Lee_Masters
- 03] <https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Masters%2C%20Edgar%20Lee%2C%201868%2D1950>
- 04] <https://www.betterworldbooks.com/author/edgar-lee-masters/10820?srsId=AfmBOooSpBBccIL8ZVAjf1Qs2TTIzDJitPLRtK1jTcrBhf7qG17csy9P>
- 05] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/edgar-lee-masters/214543/?srsId=AfmBOopo9l1LzBqBMY3LUbbg5XauUF6MSxoxWor8kdxQ4yJueRK5yfMO>

06] https://www.poetry-archive.com/m/masters_edgar_lee_bibliography/

Some VIDEOS

01] Great Books: Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80HFy24DnyU> [49:41]

02] Spoon River Anthology | 1915 | Edgar Lee Masters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVFb-TajSkc> [6:12:48]

03] Spoon River Anthology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itGZZmF30ns> [49:06]

04] Edgar Lee Masters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no4qIOrhNvE> [54:02]

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Chronology

Edgar Lee Masters (1868-1950) rose from rural Illinois roots to become a prominent Chicago lawyer (partnering with [Clarence Darrow](#)), achieving literary fame with his groundbreaking 1915 [Spoon River Anthology](#), which revealed small-town secrets through free verse epitaphs, leading him to abandon law for prolific writing, including biographies and poetry, until declining health in his later years.

[Here's a Chronological Overview:](#)

[01] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/edgar-lee-masters-poems#block-timeline>

[02] http://maps-legacy.org/poets/m_r/masters/life.htm



Masters' Grave in Oakland Cemetery, Petersburg, Illinois

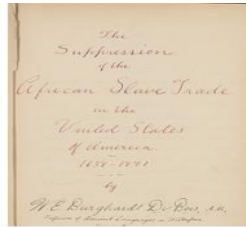


WEB DU BOIS (1868-1963)

"To be a poor man is hard, but to be a poor race in a land of dollars is the very bottom of hardships."

Harvard University Achieve

W.E.B. Du Bois PhD 1895



W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)
Harvard University Archives

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868-1963) was an American historian, sociologist, and civil rights activist. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1888, Du Bois entered Harvard College as a junior and received his second bachelor's degree in 1890. He completed his graduate work at Harvard in 1895, where he was the first African American to receive a PhD.

A number of collections in the Harvard University Archives include materials that relate to Du Bois's student experiences at Harvard and his later career.

W. E. B. Du Bois Center

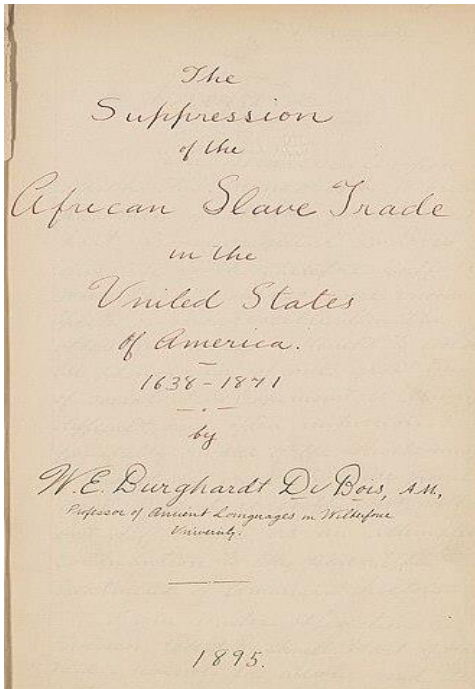
<https://duboiscenter.library.umass.edu/about/>

The **W. E. B. Du Bois Center** at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, located on the 22nd floor of the UMass Amherst Library, was established in 2009. An interdisciplinary space for the study and discussion of Du Bois's work had been envisioned long before by Dr. Randolph Bromery, the first Black chancellor of UMass Amherst during whose tenure the Du Bois Papers were acquired. Since its inception the Center has delivered on that vision and has become both an on-campus and virtual hub for all things related to W. E. B. Du Bois.

The Center's purpose can be broadly divided into two categories. First, the support of new scholarship and research on the work and life of Du Bois and his contemporaries. The Center does this through its fellowship program for postdoctoral scholars and UMass graduate students. Second, the dissemination of our vast array of expertise and resources to all audiences. The Du Bois Center aims to make the work of Du Bois accessible to anyone who wishes to learn more whether they be a fully-fledged Du Bois scholar or someone encountering Du Bois for the first time. It does so through lectures, symposia, reading groups, school visits, workshops, and panel discussions all focused on different aspects of Du Bois's life and work.

His Doctoral Thesis

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/17700>



"The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America" by W. E. B. Du Bois is a doctoral thesis completed in 1894. This groundbreaking work traces the complex history of the slave trade from colonial times through the Civil War era. Du Bois examines slavery's role in the American Revolution, its protection by the Constitution, the impact of the Haitian Revolution on Southern slave owners, and the economics of slave-produced cotton that shaped the nation's destiny.

<<<: The title page of Du Bois's Harvard Dissertation: *"Suppression of the African Slave Trade in the United States of America: 1638-1871."*

Niagara Movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niagara_Movement



The Niagara Movement (NM)[2] was a civil rights organization founded in 1905 by a group of activists—many of whom were among the vanguard of African-American lawyers in the United States—led by W. E. B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter with Mary Burnett Talbert. The Niagara Movement was organized to oppose racial segregation and disenfranchisement. Its members felt the policy of accommodation and conciliation, without voting rights, promoted by Booker T. Washington, was "unmanly." It was named for the "mighty current" of change the group wanted to effect and took Niagara Falls as its symbol. The group did not meet in Niagara Falls, New York, but planned its first conference for nearby Buffalo during the week of July 9, 1905. To avoid a possible racist protest, Du Bois instead hired a small hotel across the border in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.[4] The Niagara Movement was the immediate predecessor of the NAACP.

<<<: A photo illustration of some of the attendees at the first Niagara Conference.

The W.E.B. DuBois Award

<https://westerncriminology.org/awards/the-w-e-b-dubois-award/>

For significant contributions to the field of racial
and ethnic issues in criminology

Key Contributions & Ideas

- **Civil Rights Leadership:** Co-founded the Niagara Movement (precursor to NAACP) and the NAACP, editing its journal *The Crisis*, fighting for equality.
- **Sociological Innovations:** Developed concepts of "[double-consciousness](#)" (seeing oneself through others' eyes) and "[the veil](#)," argued race is a social construct, and applied Marxist analysis to race in *Black Reconstruction*.
- **Pan-Africanism:** A strong advocate for global solidarity among people of African descent, organizing Pan-African Congresses.
- **"The Talented Tenth":** Believed a highly educated Black elite should lead the struggle for uplift.
- **Profound Scholarship:** A prolific author and scholar, first Black person to earn a Harvard Ph.D., using rigorous evidence to combat racism and challenge historical narratives.
- **"The Color Line":** Declared race the central problem of the 20th century, influencing anti-colonial and anti-racist movements worldwide.

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Some Videos

01] Thinkers for our time: W.E.B. Du Bois

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6u2WyJbcmo> [1:00:48]

02] An Introduction to the Life, Work, and Legacy of W. E. B. Du Bois 9/25/2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSyi2L7m0dU> [1:13:03]

This lecture presents W. E. B. Du Bois's entire 95-year life story, drawing attention not only to his groundbreaking scholarship and transformational activism, but also to the personal side of Du Bois - the life events that played a decisive role in shaping his work and career. Making use of images and artifacts from the Du Bois archives, this talk aims to provide a good general introduction to those encountering Du Bois for the first time, while also providing fresh perspectives for those already familiar with his writings and legacy. Recorded at the UMass Amherst Libraries' W. E. B. Du Bois Center, Wednesday, September 25, 2024

03] Cornel West - The Historical Philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_00JnuJyovc [1:03:00]

04] W.E.B. DuBois: A Recorded Autobiography (1961)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ooa-CzT7NWg> [1:11:23]

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EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON (1869-1935)

"Two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we take; the larger kind we feel for what we give."

Pulitzer Prize

Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869-1935) was a prominent American poet who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry three times in the 1920s: in 1922 for *Collected Poems*, 1925 for *The Man Who Died Twice*, and 1928 for *Tristram*. He was a leading, highly regarded 20th-century poet known for his work in traditional forms, exploring themes of personal failure and change.

Key details about his Pulitzer wins and career

- **1922 Prize:** Awarded for *Collected Poems*, which was the first-ever Pulitzer Prize for a poetry book.
- **1925 Prize:** Awarded for *The Man Who Died Twice*.
- **1928 Prize:** Awarded for the bestseller *Tristram*.
- **Recognition:** Robinson was often compared to Robert Frost and was known for his psychological portraits of characters in "Tilbury Town".
- **Career Note:** He was also nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature four times.

Nominations to Nobel Prize

Nominee in 4 Nominations:

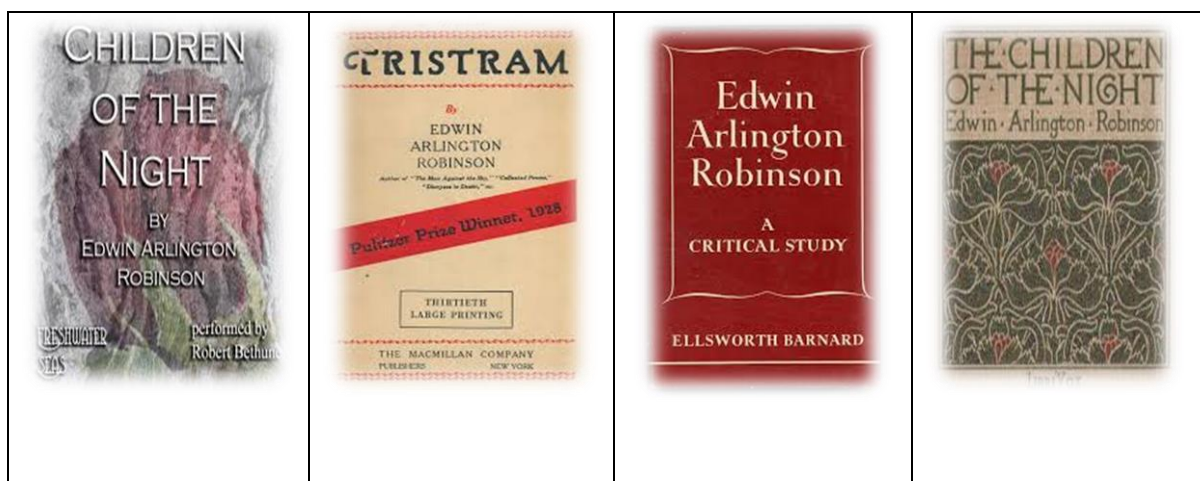
- Literature 1929 by Knut Hjalmar Leonard Hammarskjöld
- Literature 1930 by Knut Hjalmar Leonard Hammarskjöld
- Literature 1932 by Knut Hjalmar Leonard Hammarskjöld
- Literature 1934 by Knut Hjalmar Leonard Hammarskjöld

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Some Important Web Pages

- 01] <https://poetryinvoice.ca/read/poets/edwin-arlington-robinson>
- 02] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edwin-Arlington-Robinson>
- 03] https://library.syracuse.edu/digital/guides/r/robinson_ea.htm
- 04] <https://poets.org/poet/edwin-arlington-robinson>
- 05] <https://libraries.colby.edu/special-collections-colby/edwin-arlington-robinson-2/>
- 06] <https://faculty.georgetown.edu/bassr/heath/syllabuild/iguide/robinson.html>
- 07] https://englishverse.com/poets/robinson_edwin_arlington
- 08] <https://poemanalysis.com/edwin-arlington-robinson/poems/>
- 09] <https://modjourn.org/biography/robinson-edwin-arlington-1869-1935/>
- 10] <https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/who/Robinson%2C%20Edwin%20Arlington%2C%201869-1935>

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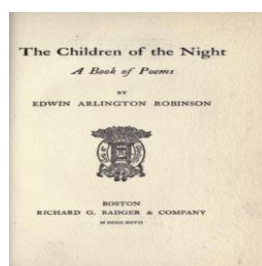


Web Pages [BOOKS]

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/175>
 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/140309.Edwin_Arlington_Robinson
 03] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/330388/selected-poems-by-edwin-arlington-robinson/>
 04] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/edwin-arlington-robinson/214544/?srsltid=AfmBOooLKuyZv2D2E5T0iga1vjJG0-Yvmz_Na-DeJ1c0JQnm0weWjKEk

Children of the Night

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children_of_the_Night_\(poetry_collection\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children_of_the_Night_(poetry_collection))



The Children of the Night: A Book of Poems was the second volume of poetry published by the American poet Edwin Arlington Robinson. While the volume was weakly received, President Theodore Roosevelt's son Kermit introduced the work to his father who, knowing his straits, secured Robinson a job at the NY Customs Office.

Videos

- 01] A Detailed Analysis of "Richard Cory" by Edwin Arlington Robinson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeVjF3oqseq> [20:39]
 02] The Town Down the River: A Book of Poems by Edwin Arlington ROBINSON | Full Audio Book
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpPU9YYoVQw> [1:10:04]
 03] Three poems by Edwin Arlington Robinson, 1958-08-22
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH5MIMDPQjg> [1:23:23]
 04] One Hundred Years of New England Poetry, Then and Now
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmwd7-uzQfE> [1:34:15]

In celebration of its centennial, the Poetry Society of America, the nation's oldest poetry organization, paid tribute to the likes of Robert Lowell, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Robert Frost, and Jay Wright, among others, in Poets of New England, 1910--2010. Nine contemporary New England writers read from their own poems, as well as from the work of famous New Englanders of the past century. Among the poets reading were Pulitzer Prize-winners Mary Oliver, James Tate, and Franz Wright, as well as Gail Mazur, Frank Bidart, X. J. Kennedy, Major Jackson, Sophie Chantal Hart Professor Emeritus of English at Wellesley College and College of Arts & Sciences lecturer in creative writing David Ferry, and Rosanna Warren, BU's Emma Ann MacLachlan Metcalf Professor of the Humanities.

Key Aspects of His Legacy

- **Bridging Tradition and Modernism:** Robinson rejected the "prettified" poetry of his era, opting for plainspoken language and focusing on the inner lives of people, yet he maintained strict, traditional forms like sonnets and blank verse.
- **Psychological Realism & "Tilbury Town":** He is celebrated for creating a vivid, bleak, and sometimes darkly humorous portrait of New England life, often focusing on themes of wasted potential, quiet desperation, and the failure of the American Dream.
- **Prolific Narrative Poetry:** He was a master of the long narrative poem, with his Arthurian trilogy—*Merlin* (1917), *Lancelot* (1920), and *Tristram* (1927)—widely acclaimed, with *Tristram* becoming a bestseller.
- **"First Professional Poet":** Robinson is often cited as the first American poet to earn his living solely from his craft, sticking to a life of writing despite years of poverty and obscurity.
- **Pulitzer Prize Record:** He won three Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry: in 1922 (*Collected Poems*), 1925 (*The Man Who Died Twice*), and 1928 (*Tristram*).
- **Influence on Later Poets:** He was a significant influence on Robert Frost, with later critics like Donald Hall urging his restoration to the "American pantheon" of poets in the 1990s.

Major Awards and Honors

- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (Three-time Winner):**
 - **1922:** Awarded for *Collected Poems* (1921).
 - **1925:** Awarded for *The Man Who Died Twice* (1924).
 - **1928:** Awarded for *Tristram* (1927).
- **Nobel Prize in Literature Nominations:** Nominated four times.
- **American Academy of Arts and Letters:** Elected as a member in 1927.
- **The Lyric Society Prize:** Awarded \$500 in 1919 for the best book manuscript (*Launcelot*).
- **Honorary Degree:** Awarded a Doctor of Literature degree from Yale University.

Key Recognition and Patronage

- **Theodore Roosevelt's Support:** Impressed by *Children of the Night*, President Roosevelt wrote a review praising Robinson and secured him a position (a sinecure) in the New York Customs Office (1905–1909) to provide financial stability, which allowed him to focus on writing.
- **MacDowell Colony Residency:** For the last 25 years of his life, Robinson spent his summers at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, a crucial artistic refuge.
- **Acclaim from Contemporaries:** Fellow poets and critics, including Amy Lowell, recognized his dedication, with some calling him the "foremost poet of America" during his time.



STEPHEN CRANE

(1871-1900)

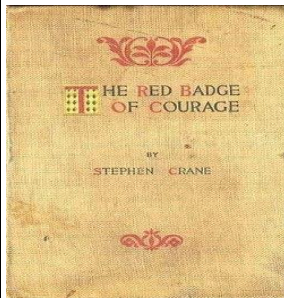
"A serious prophet upon predicting a flood should be the first man to climb a tree. This would demonstrate that he was indeed a seer."

Compiled by

Deborah Priscilla I <::> Reg No. 253313111005

The Red Badge of Courage

[A] Novel

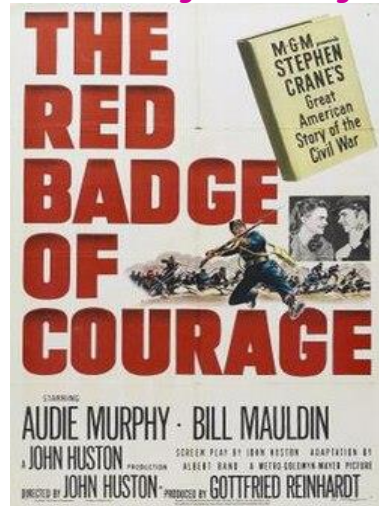


The Red Badge of Courage is an 1895 war novel by American author Stephen Crane. The novel was published on 3 October 1895. Taking place during the American Civil War, the story is about a young private of the Union Army, Henry Fleming, who flees from the field of battle. Overcome with shame, he longs for a wound, a "red badge of courage", to counteract his cowardice. When his regiment once again faces the enemy, Henry acts as flag-bearer, carrying the regimental colors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Red_Badge_of_Courage

[B] 1951 Film

The Red Badge of Courage is a 1951 American war film made by MGM. Directed by John Huston, it was produced by Gottfried Reinhardt with Dore Schary as executive producer. The screenplay is by John Huston, adapted by Albert Band from Stephen Crane's 1895 novel of the same name. The cinematography is by Harold Rosson, and the music score by Bronislau Kaper. The making of this film is the subject of Lillian Ross's 1952 book *Picture*, originally in *The New Yorker*.



The American Civil War film is a sparse but faithful retelling of the story, incorporating narration from the text to move the plot forward. Audie Murphy, a hero of World War II who later went into acting, played the lead role of Henry Fleming. Other actors include cartoonist Bill Mauldin, Andy Devine, Arthur Hunnicutt and Royal Dano.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Red_Badge_of_Courage_\(1951_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Red_Badge_of_Courage_(1951_film))

[C] 1974 Film

The Red Badge of Courage is a 1974 American TV movie based on the 1895 novel *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Red_Badge_of_Courage_\(1974_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Red_Badge_of_Courage_(1974_film))



Battle of Chancellorsville by Kurz and Allison; Crane's realistic portrayal of war has earned him recognition from numerous critics and scholars throughout the years



Crane's gravestone in Evergreen Cemetery



A steam train on the Third Avenue El over the Bowery in 1896



Stephen Crane (front row, center) sits with baseball teammates on the steps of the Hall of Languages, Syracuse University, 1891

Videos

01] Burning Boy: Paul Auster on the Extraordinary Life and Work of Stephen Crane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HoSfBpGhEE> [1:13:31]

October 28, 2021—In a remarkable ten-year career cut short by death from tuberculosis at twenty-eight, Stephen Crane ushered American literature into the twentieth century. Novelist, poet, and screenwriter Paul Auster, author of the riveting new Crane biography "Burning Boy," joins Library of America for a conversation about the singular life story and even more singular genius behind the stories, stark, haunting poems, and indelible "The Red Badge of Courage."

02] The Black Riders & Other Lines by Stephen CRANE | Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wmkC9UdQgg> [44:16]

03] Reading Aloud - Stephen Crane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2nx0Oc6gsQ> [42:37]

Pat Tully of the Ketchikan Public Library reads The Veteran, Nebraska's Bitter Fight for Life, and War is Kind, by Stephen Crane.

04] Jersey Genius: Author Stephen Crane "From Pennington to Posterity"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN1INNJIPTs> [1:09:30]

Key Aspects of His Legacy

- **The Red Badge of Courage (1895):** Widely recognized as a masterpiece, this novel redefined war literature by focusing on the internal psychological experience of fear and survival rather than glorifying battle, even though Crane had never experienced combat.
- **Literary Naturalism and Realism:** *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* (1893) was a groundbreaking, uncompromising look at urban poverty and slum life, establishing a new sociological approach in American fiction.
- **Stylistic Innovation:** Crane's prose was marked by intense, immediate imagery—described as "the singing of the nerves"—which anticipated modernism and imagism.
- **Short Story Mastery:** He is considered one of America's best short-story writers, with works like "The Open Boat" (based on his own survival of a shipwreck), "The Blue Hotel," and "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky".
- **Journalism and Poetry:** Crane brought a distinctive, non-judgmental, and observational style to journalism. His poetry, such as *The Black Riders*, anticipated modern, unconventional verse.

Library of America

<https://www.loa.org/news-and-views/stephen-cranes-own-story-stephen-crane/>
"Stephen Crane's Own Story," <:>Stephen Crane



Stephen Crane died when he was just 28, on June 5, 1900, but three years earlier many newspapers had reported his death when he was lost at sea after a shipwreck. He was on his way to Cuba to report "undercover" on the revolution—a mission that meant certain imprisonment or even execution if he were captured by the Spanish authorities. One article, relying on an eyewitness account from a survivor, noted that "he died trying to save others" when the SS *Commodore* sank sixteen miles off the coast of Florida only hours after it had embarked.

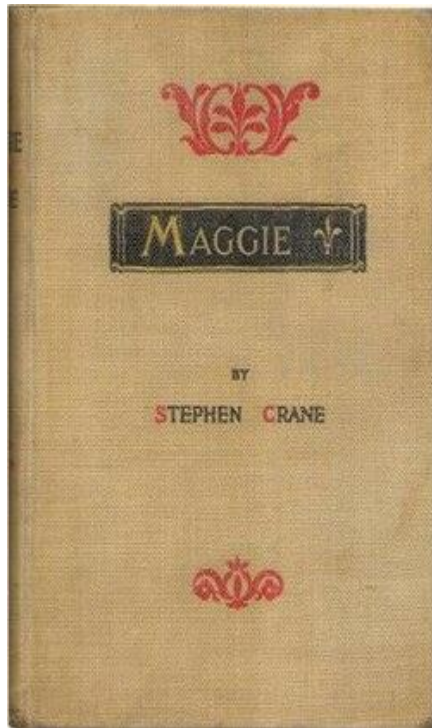
After 30 hours at sea on a 10-foot dinghy, Crane and two others were found alive near Daytona Beach. "The wake held at the St. James [Hotel] last night turned into a Jubilee today," wired one of Crane's new acquaintances in Jacksonville, who also sent him money since Crane had washed ashore with only the

clothes he was wearing. The stories about Crane's bravery and heroism on the ship and at sea were heralded by the press. "Young New York Writer Astonishes the Sea Dogs by His Courage in the Face of Death," read one front-page headline.

From the experience came Stephen Crane's most famous short story, "The Open Boat." Less known, but just as thrilling, is the factual eyewitness account he wrote for newspapers not even three days after his rescue. We present "Stephen Crane's Own Story" as our Story of the Week selection, with an introduction describing his month in Jacksonville leading up to the doomed journey.

Maggie: A Girl of the Streets

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maggie:_A_Girl_of_the_Streets

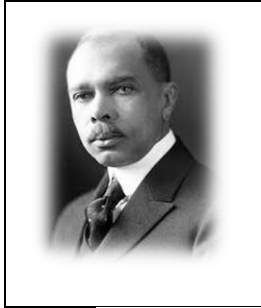


Maggie: A Girl of the Streets is an 1893 tragic novella by American author Stephen Crane (1871-1900). The story centers on Margaret "Maggie" Johnson, an 18-year-old girl from the Bowery who is driven to prostitution due to failed relationship with a young man named Pete Murphy who leaves her for another girl named Nellie Griffiths, and also due to poverty and solitude. The work was considered risqué by publishers because of its literary realism and strong themes. Crane - who was 21 years old at the time - financed the book's publication himself, although the original 1893 edition was printed under the pseudonym Johnston Smith. After the success of 1895's *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Maggie* was reissued in 1896 with

considerable changes and re-writing. The story is followed by *George's Mother*.

Historical Context

Maggie was published during the time of industrialization.^[6] The United States, a country shaped by agriculture in the 19th century, became an industrialized nation in the late 1800s. Moreover, "an unprecedented influx of immigrants contributed to a boom in population," created bigger cities and a new consumer society. By these developments, progress was linked with poverty, illustrating that the majority of the US population was skeptical about the dependency on the fluctuation of global economy.

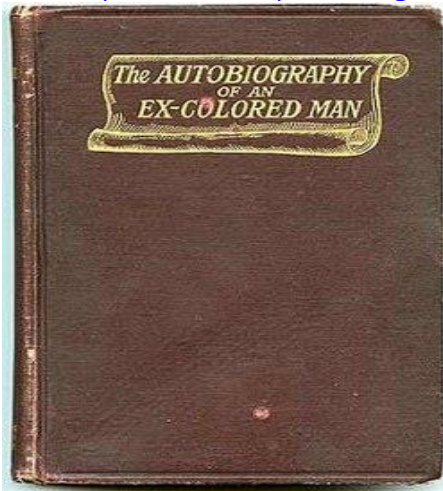


JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1871-1938)

"The colored people of this country know and understand the white people better than the white people know and understand them."

The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Autobiography_of_an_Ex-Colored_Man



The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man

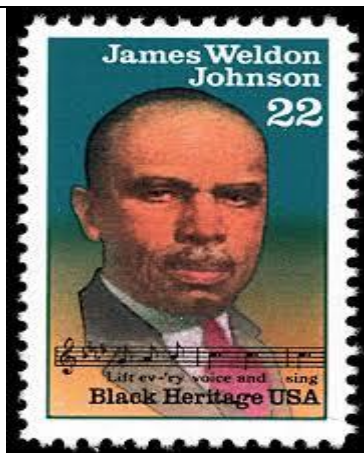
(1912/1927) by James Weldon Johnson is the fictional account of a young biracial man, referred to only as the "Ex-Colored Man", living in post-Reconstruction era America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He lives through a variety of experiences, including witnessing a lynching, that convince him to "pass" as white to secure his safety and advancement, but he feels as if he has given up his dream of "glorifying" the black race by composing ragtime music.

Plot Summary

The novel begins with a frame tale in which the unnamed narrator describes the narrative that follows as "the great secret of my life."^[6] The narrator notes that he is taking a substantial risk by composing the narrative, but that it is one he feels compelled to record, regardless. The narrator also chooses to withhold the name of the small Georgia town where his narrative begins, as there are still living residents of the town who might be able to connect him to the narrative. Throughout the novel, the adult narrator from the frame interjects into the text to offer reflective commentary into the events of the narrative.



James Weldon Johnson Library in South St. Petersburg, Florida, interior, November 13, 2024



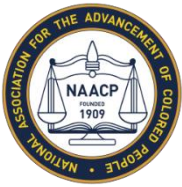
Key Pillars of Legacy

- **Civil Rights Leadership:** As the first Black leader of the NAACP (starting in 1916), he transformed the organization, leading the 1917 silent march against lynching and organizing mass protests.
- **Cultural & Literary Impact:** A key Harlem Renaissance figure, he wrote *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912), *God's Trombones* (1927), and edited *The Book of American Negro Poetry* (1922).
- **"Lift Every Voice and Sing":** Co-written with his brother J. Rosamond Johnson, this song was adopted by the NAACP and remains a powerful anthem.
- **Diplomatic & Academic "Firsts":** He was the first African American to pass the Florida bar exam, the first to serve as a U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua, and the first to hold a professorship at NYU.
- **Preservation:** The [James Weldon Johnson Foundation](https://www.jamesweldonjohnsonfoundation.org/) preserves his writing cabin in Great Barrington, MA, honoring his creative space.

https://prezi.com/p/i-a_e_yecbab/the-life-and-legacy-of-james-weldon-johnson/

NAACP

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAACP>



The **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** is an American **civil rights** organization formed in 1909 as an interracial endeavour to advance justice for **African Americans** by a group including **W. E. B. Du Bois**, **Mary White Ovington**, **Moorfield Storey**, **Ida B. Wells**, **Lillian Wald**, **Emil G. Hirsch** and **Henry Moskowitz**. Over the years, leaders of the organization have included **Thurgood Marshall** and **Roy Wilkins**.

The NAACP is the largest and oldest civil rights group in America.

Its mission in the 21st century is "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination". NAACP initiatives include political lobbying, publicity efforts, and litigation strategies developed by its legal team. The group enlarged its mission in the late 20th century by considering issues such as **police misconduct**, the status of black foreign refugees and questions of economic development. Its name, retained in accordance with tradition, uses the once common term **colored people**, referring to those with some African ancestry. The NAACP started publishing a quarterly magazine *The Crisis* and it had as its editor **W.E.B Du Bois** for 24 years.

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Videos

01] **A Sunday Service Tribute to Civil Rights Leader James Weldon Johnson**

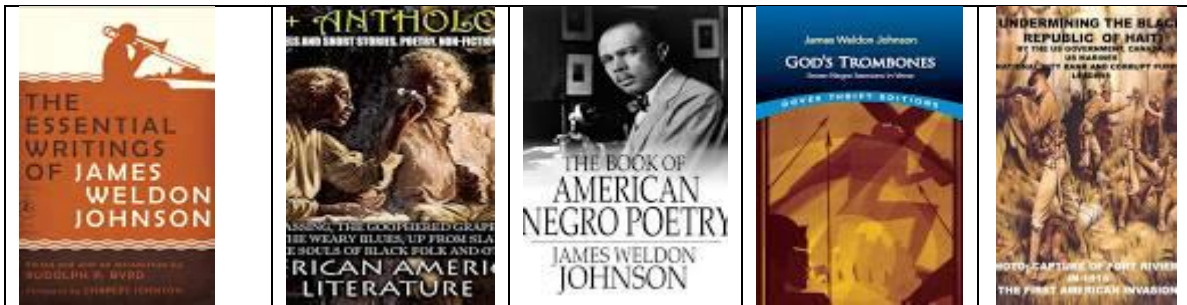
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXkeWzoob9c> [1:14:15]

02] **Fall 2021 James Weldon Johnson Lecture**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8H6suIEV94> [1:13:20]

03] **The Essential Writings of James Weldon Johnson**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHBPOAnx0rU> [1:00:09]



BOOKS

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/3793>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/29617.James_Weldon_Johnson
- 03] <https://www.jamesweldonjohnson.org/books-and-writings>
- 04] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/james-weldon-johnson>

<https://www.jamesweldonjohnson.org/>

The James Weldon Johnson Foundation preserves and advances the enduring legacy of James Weldon Johnson, one of America's most influential writers, thinkers, cultural leaders, and advocates for justice.

Through the historic preservation of landmarks such as Five Acres, the Johnsons' retreat in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and the promotion of educational, intellectual, and artistic initiatives, the Foundation fosters creativity, equity, and cultural reflection that impacts the contemporary world.





THEODORE DREISER (1871-1945)

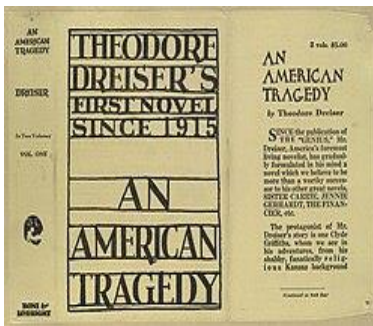
"I believe in the compelling power of love. I do not understand it. I believe it to be the most fragrant blossom of all this thorny existence."

Compiled by:

Sanju R <::> Reg No. 243313111002

Books

01] An American Tragedy

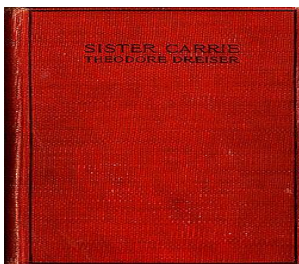


An American Tragedy is a 1925 novel by American writer Theodore Dreiser. He began the manuscript in the summer of 1920, but a year later, abandoned most of that text. It was based on the notorious murder of Grace Brown in 1906, and the trial of her lover, Chester Gillette. In 1923 Dreiser returned to the project and, with the help of his future wife Helen and editor-secretaries Louise Campbell and Sally Kusell, completed

the massive novel in 1925. The book entered the public domain in the United States on January 1, 2021.

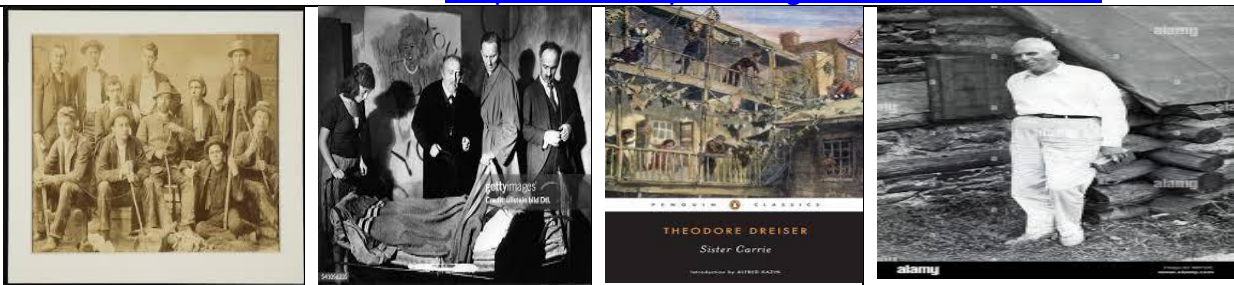
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_American_Tragedy

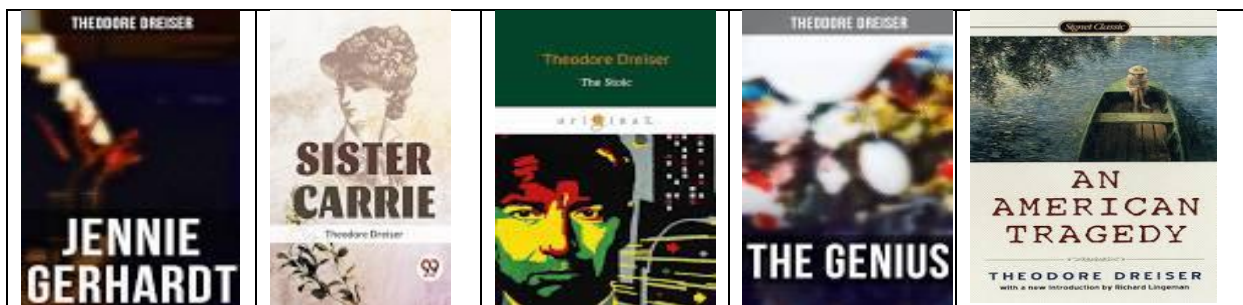
02] Sister Carrie



Sister Carrie is a 1900 novel by Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945) about a young woman who moves to the big city where she starts realizing her own American Dream. She first becomes a mistress to men that she perceives as superior, but later becomes a famous actress. It has been called the "greatest of all American urban novels".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sister_Carrie



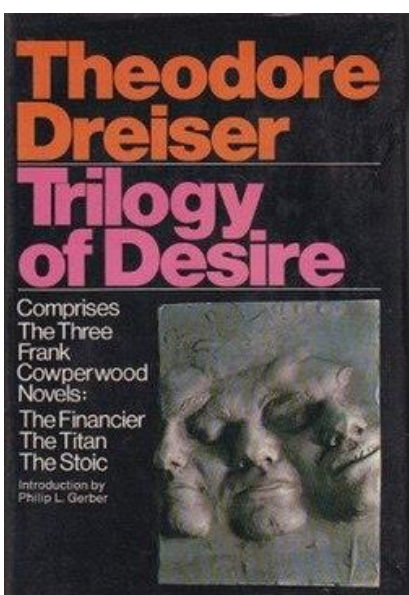


Books

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/130>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/8987.Theodore_Dreiser
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/8987.Theodore_Dreiser
- 04] <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/tag/theodore-dreiser/>
- 05] <https://www.bookseriesinorder.com/theodore-dreiser/>

Trilogy of Desire

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilogy_of_Desire



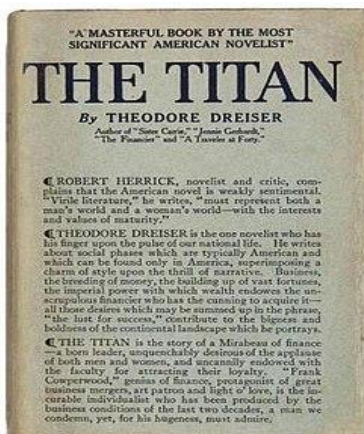
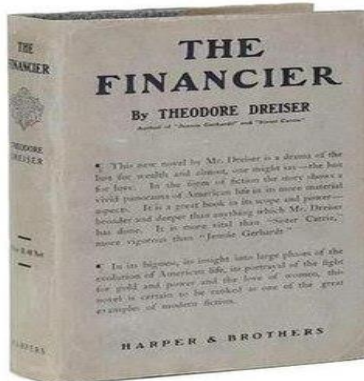
The **Trilogy of Desire** is a series of three novels by Theodore Dreiser:

- *The Financier* (1912)
- *The Titan* (1914)
- *The Stoic* (1947)

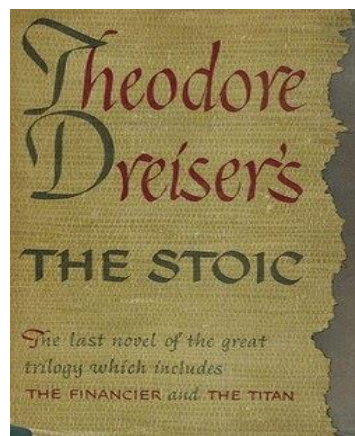
The protagonist of the trilogy, **Frank Algernon Cowperwood**, was modeled after financier **Charles Yerkes**. The novels narrate his rise and fall through an unscrupulous, self-centered quest for power and wealth.

<https://standardebooks.org/collections/trilogy-of-desire>

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/97549-trilogy-of-desire>



Dreiser's Trilogy of Desire, a saga of ruthless businessman Frank Cowperwood (modelled after real-life streetcar tycoon Charles Yerkes). The third part of the trilogy, *The Stoic*, was Dreiser's final novel, published in 1947 after his death.



The Financier

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Financier

The Financier is a novel by Theodore Dreiser, based on real-life streetcar tycoon Charles Yerkes. Dreiser started writing his manuscript in 1911, and the following year published the first part of his lengthy work as *The Financier*. The second part appeared in 1914 as *The Titan*; the third volume of his Trilogy of Desire was also Dreiser's final novel, *The Stoic* (1947).

The Titan

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Titan_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Titan_(novel))

The Titan is a novel by Theodore Dreiser, completed in 1914 as a sequel to his 1912 novel *The Financier*. Both books were originally a single manuscript, but the narrative's length required splitting it into two separate novels. Dreiser's manuscript of *The Titan* was rejected by Harper & Brothers, publisher of *The Financier*, due to its uncompromising realism; John Lane published the book in 1914. *The Titan* is the second part of

The Stoic

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Stoic

The Stoic is a novel by Theodore Dreiser, written in 1945 and first published in 1947. It is the conclusion of his Trilogy of Desire, which includes *The Financier* (1912) and *The Titan* (1914). This series of novels depicts Frank Cowperwood, a businessman based on the real-life streetcar tycoon Charles Yerkes.

After many years of preparatory work, Dreiser commenced writing the third volume of his Cowperwood trilogy in April 1932. By August 1932 he had completed fifty-five chapters (representing about two-thirds of the work). But he then broke-off, until resuming in mid-1945. He completed a further thirty-four chapters plus an `epilogue` by October 1945. Having circulated the draft among friends and advisors, he decided to delete the epilogue and to rewrite the final chapter. He died before he could finish the

manuscript, and his widow Helen assembled the novel's final pages. Helen also acquiesced to the novel being cut from 90 chapters of 921 pages to 78 chapters with 510 pages.

A number of Dreiser's characters in *The Stoic* are based on persons associated with Yerkes during his London years. For example "Elverson Johnson" was based on Robert William Perks; and "Berenice Fleming" was based on Emilie Busbey Grigsby.

Videos

01] Hollywood: Its Morals and Manners by Theodore Dreiser - FULL AUDIOBOOK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSXPe0feq2o> [1:34:02]

02] Learn English Through Story - The Second Choice by Theodore Dreiser

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVgjMHjbCVY> [1:05:37]

03] The Second Choice by Theodore Dreiser

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaVo_x-I4f4 [1:05:41]

04] A Book About Myself by Theodore Dreiser read by Various Part 1/3 | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILrnWgsEzqc> [7:09:18]

05] Book About Myself by Theodore Dreiser read by Various Part 2/3 | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01GVYN4x98s> [7:00:40]

06] A Book About Myself by Theodore Dreiser read by Various Part 3/3 | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYiZpfX7LU0> [4:38:37]

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Key Aspects of Dreiser's Legacy

- **Literary Naturalism:** As a leading proponent of naturalism, Dreiser focused on how environment, social conditions, and chance—rather than free will—shape human lives.
- **Challenging Morality:** He defied literary censorship to explore taboo subjects like desire, economic struggle, and the harsh realities of industrial capitalism.
- **Major Works:** His novels, including the *Trilogy of Desire* (e.g., [The Financier](#), [The Titan](#)), often detailed the pursuit of material success at the cost of spiritual fulfillment.
- **Impact on Fiction:** He is recognized for his ability to evoke empathy through complex characters, influencing later generations of writers, [Oreate AI notes](#).
- **Social and Political Views:** Later in life, Dreiser was a vocal critic of American capitalism, becoming a socialist and joining the Communist Party USA in 1945, Wikipedia notes.

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WILELLA SIBERT CATHER

(1873-1947)

"We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it - for a little while."

Compiled by:

Viola Dhill Christina I <::> Reg No. 253313111004

Pulitzer Prize

Willa Sibert Cather was awarded the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel for her book *One of Ours* (1922), which chronicles the life of a Nebraskan farmer during World War I. The award recognized her significant contribution to American literature, particularly her exploration of the wartime experience.

Key details about the award and the book:

- **Award Year:** 1923.
- **Winning Work:** *One of Ours*.
- **Publisher:** Knopf.
- **Context:** The novel is set during World War I and was inspired by the death of her cousin.
- **Significance:** While Cather is best known for her novels about the American Great Plains, such as *O Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia*, this prize highlighted her work in war literature.

Honors and Achievements

<https://www.willacather.org/about/honors-and-achievements>



- Awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1923 for ***One of Ours***
- Earned a Gold Medal from the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1944)
- Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters
- Received a William Dean Howells medal for ***Death Comes for the Archbishop*** (1930)
- Awarded the Prix Femina Américain for her depiction of French culture within North America in ***Shadows on the Rock*** (1933)
- Received a Mark Twain Award
- Spotlighted with novels appearing on the 100 greatest novel lists for Time, the New York Times, and Publisher's Weekly
- Received honorary degrees from Columbia, Creighton, Princeton, Yale, Smith College, and the Universities of California, Michigan, and Nebraska

- The Library of Congress included ***My Antonia*** on its list of 100 novels that shaped America
- Inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame (1962) and New York State Writers Hall of Fame (2011)
- Honored by the United States Postal Service with a postage stamp bearing her image (1973)
- Honored by the United States Mint with the creation of a Willa Cather half-ounce gold medallion (1981)
- Commemorated in the National Statuary Hall Collection of the U.S. Capitol (2023).

<https://www.willacather.org/about/willa-cather-timeline>

Willa Cather Timeline

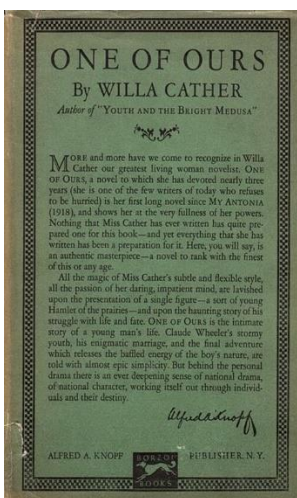
MAJOR EVENTS & MILESTONES

Today Willa Cather is one of the most important American novelists of the first half of the twentieth century. Seen as a regional writer for decades after her passing in 1947, critics have increasingly identified Cather as a canonical American writer, the peer of authors like Hemingway, Faulkner and Wharton.

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One of Ours

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_of_Ours



***One of Ours* is a 1922 novel by Willa Cather that won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. It tells the story of the life of Claude Wheeler, a Nebraska native in the first decades of the 20th century. The son of a successful farmer and an intensely pious mother, he is guaranteed a comfortable livelihood. Nevertheless, Wheeler views himself as a victim of his father's success and his own inexplicable malaise.**

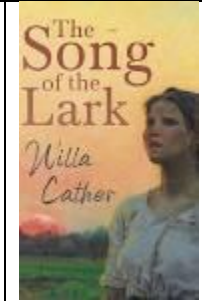
Annotations from the Archive

<https://www.willacather.org/collections/annotations-archive>

The National Willa Cather Center houses one of the nation's largest collections of materials related to the life and works of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather. Our museum and archival collections, housed in Cather's home town of Red

Cloud, Nebraska, contain memorabilia, artifacts, historic photographs, art and decorative arts, journals, and rare book collections, as well as items belonging to Willa Cather like letters, clothing, jewelry, artwork, manuscripts, address books, journals, and sales ledgers for her novels, as well as hundreds of objects that belonged to the Cather family.

[Click here to Explore the Collection!](#)



Books

- 01] <https://www.willacather.org/about/bibliography>
- 02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/22>
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/881203.Willa_Cather
- 04] <https://cather.unl.edu/writings/books>
- 05] <https://www.loa.org/books/22-early-novels-amp-stories/>

Videos

- 01] Willa Cather documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AJDk9QCKk> [1:24:11]
- 02] Willa Cather: One of Ours - Rachel Olsen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_a2ah6c8vw [1:07:05]
- 03] Willa Cather: Queer American, Resurging Voice
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbLoA8YXtxM> [1:27:10]
- 04] Reading Willa Cather: A Sesquicentennial Celebration
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZasH09sNWw> [1:03:52]

The Library is pleased to partner with the National Willa Cather Center to commemorate Willa Cather's 150th birthday. This monumental year for Cather readers is also the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours*, as well as the publication centenaries for *A Lost Lady* and *April Twilights and Other Poems*. The celebration includes short readings from Cather's fiction and letters and also a reading of Truman Capote's unfinished reminiscence of his chance meeting with Willa Cather at the [New York Society Library](#) in 1942. This event took place at the Library on October 24, 2023. The readers are Deanne Lorette and Steve Routman.



WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willa_Cather_Foundation



The Willa Cather Foundation is an American not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Red Cloud, Nebraska, dedicated to preserving the archives and settings associated with Willa Cather (1873-1947), a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and promoting the appreciation of her work.[1] Established in 1955, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that promotes Willa Cather's legacy through education, preservation, and the arts. Programs and services include regular guided historic site tours, conservation of the 612 acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, and organization of year-round cultural programs and exhibits at the restored Red Cloud Opera House.

In 2017, the Willa Cather Foundation opened the National Willa Cather Center—an archive, museum, and study center in downtown Red Cloud which houses the Red Cloud Opera House, art gallery, bookstore, a permanent exhibit on the life and works of Willa Cather, "American Bittersweet," and an expansive, climate-controlled Special Collections & Archives. The Foundation houses growing archival and museum collections and preserves ten properties that make up the largest collection of nationally-designated historic sites related to an American author.

Willa Cather

<https://americanliterature.com/author/willa-cather>



THERE'S NOTHING SO DANGEROUS AS SITTING STILL. YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE, ONE YOUTH, AND YOU CAN LET IT SLIP THROUGH YOUR FINGERS IF YOU WANT TO; NOTHING EASIER. MOST PEOPLE DO THAT.
WILLA CATHER

AmericanLiterature.com

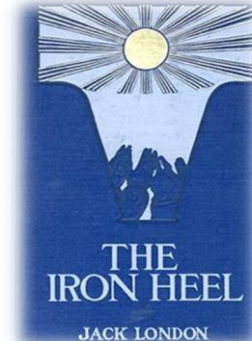
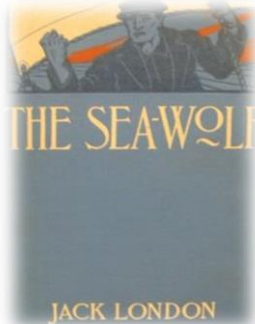
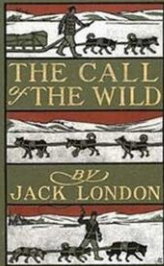
Willa Sibert Cather (December 7, 1873 - April 24, 1947) was born in Back Creek Valley, Virginia on a small farm that had been in her family for six generations. In 1883, the Cather family moved to Nebraska, relocating to the town of Red Cloud the following year. Willa spent the remainder of her childhood in Red Cloud; she would later make the town famous by featuring it in her writing. Willa insisted on attending college and her family borrowed money to send her to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After college she moved to Pittsburgh, and then to New York City where she went to work for McClure's Magazine.



JACK LONDON

(1876-1916)

" There's only one way to make a beginning, and that is to begin; and begin with hard work, and patience, prepared for all the disappointments."



Books

- 01] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Call_of_the_Wild
- 02] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sea-Wolf
- 03] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Fang
- 04] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Iron_Heel
- 05] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Eden
- 06] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cruise_of_the_Snark
- 07] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barleycorn_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barleycorn_(novel))
- 08] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Road_\(London_book\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Road_(London_book))
- 09] <http://jacklondon.ouroakland.net/books/>

Key legacies of Jack London

Jack London's legacy is that of a pioneering, prolific American author (1876–1916) who redefined adventure literature and explored themes of individualism, socialism, and the human-nature struggle. Famous for *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, his work, socialist advocacy, and life as an adventurer shaped the 20th-century American literary canon and left an enduring impact on environmentalism and science fiction.

- **Literary Impact:** London was the first major U.S. celebrity author, pioneering the genre of environmental fiction and writing roughly 50 books in just 17 years, including classics like *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *The Sea-Wolf*.

- **Literary Foreshadowing & Genre:** He is considered a precursor to modern science fiction, with works like *The Iron Heel* exploring dystopian themes, and *Before Adam* delving into prehistory.
- **Social and Political Activism:** A staunch socialist, London used his writing to highlight class struggles, worker rights, and the plight of the poor,, as seen in *The People of the Abyss* and *War of the Classes*.
- **Environmental & Agrarian Influence:** London was a pioneer in sustainable, organic farming practices at his [Beauty Ranch](#) in California, advocating for techniques that were far ahead of their time.
- **The "Frontier" Archetype:** He captured the spirit of the Klondike Gold Rush, creating enduring, intense, and romanticized, yet gritty, portrayals of man battling nature.
- **Cultural Symbol:** He remains a symbol of rugged individualism, adventure, and the "masculine hero of the age".
- **The Jack London State Historic Park:** His home in Glen Ellen, California, is preserved as a park, honoring his life,, writings, and, agricultural endeavors.

Despite an often hectic writing pace that resulted in uneven quality, London's, works remain highly readable and relevant today, with, frequent, film, and television adaptations continuing to explore his, themes of, survival, and, social, justice.



Tarnel Abbott, Jack London's great-granddaughter, and her dog Ruby at home in the Annex Panhandle neighborhood of Richmond, CA.

01] <https://richmondside.org/2024/07/19/jack-london-great-granddaughter-in-richmond/>

02] <https://jacklondonpark.com/history-on-jack-london/>

03] <https://panmacmillan.co.in/authors/jack-london/169615>

Some Videos

01] Jack London: Who Was America's First Celebrity Author?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJtL84SUfvA> [50:11]

After separating from his first wife, Jack London's adventure continues. He writes *White Fang* and decides it is time once again to take a political stance. He also continues his journey out in the wild west and even around the world.

02] Growing Up Poor In 19th Century America: The Jack London Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnBnNKBzNIA> [50:26]

03] Jack London's Literary Code | The Art of Manliness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-MA-JEtJ8> [1:02:58]

04] Jack London Sailor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvtLPFK9l6Y> [51:59]

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Jack London Awards

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcqlclefindmkaj/https://calwriters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Jack-London-Awards-2021.pdf>

The purpose of this award is simple: to honor outstanding volunteer service by an individual at each California Writers Club branch. As described in the CWC Central Board's Policies and Procedures, the merit of the award is in service, independent of writing achievements. The Jack London Service Award, and the Ina Coolbrith Award honoring service at the state level, are considered the highest honors bestowed upon a member by CWC.

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<https://www.americanheritage.com/jack-london>

Jack London carved himself a special niche in the annals of American literature. Born in poverty in the first month of America's centennial year, he spent his boyhood suffering the rejection of an unloving mother and much of his young manhood as a careless delinquent, a waterfront roisterer, and a road bum, quite as mindless of his own self-destruction as any modern youth who wastes himself with drugs and hitchhikes the interstates from nowhere to nowhere else.

London pulled himself out of poverty and psychic and physical ruin by writing, and by the time of his death in 1916 was the highest-paid writer of his time. He also was the best-known American writer of his time, for he was, by his own creation, a public figure, a man who put more of his genius into his life than into his work, even though his output as a writer was prodigious. He constructed a myth of himself as a hero battling against the elements, against drink and death, a frail superman always locked in a struggle for survival and success.

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CARL SANDBURG

(1878-1967)

"Yesterday is done. Tomorrow never comes. Today is here. If you don't know what to do, sit still and listen. You may hear something. Nobody knows."

Compiled by:

Surya Kumar AS <::> Reg No. 253313121002

Carl Sandburg Literary Awards

<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/award/carl-sandburg-literary-awards>

These awards are presented by Chicago Public Library in partnership with the Chicago Public Library Foundation. Proceeds from the annual Carl Sandburg Literary Awards Dinner support innovative and life-enriching programs at the Chicago Public Library.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Sandburg_Home_National_Historic_Site



Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, located at 81 Carl Sandburg Lane near Hendersonville in the village of Flat Rock, North Carolina, preserves Connemara, the home of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and writer Carl Sandburg. Though a Midwesterner, Sandburg and his family moved to this home in 1945 for the peace and solitude required for his writing and the more than 30 acres (120,000 m²) of pastureland required for his wife, Lilian, to raise her champion dairy goats. Sandburg spent the last twenty-two years of his life on this farm and published more than a third of his works while he resided here.

Major Awards and Honors

- **Pulitzer Prizes (Three-time winner):**
 - **1919:** Poetry for *Cornhuskers*.
 - **1940:** History for *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*.
 - **1951:** Poetry for *Complete Poems*.
- **Presidential Medal of Freedom (1964):** Awarded by President Lyndon B. Johnson.
- **Grammy Award (1959):** Best Performance – Documentary Or Spoken Word for his recording of Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* with the New York Philharmonic.

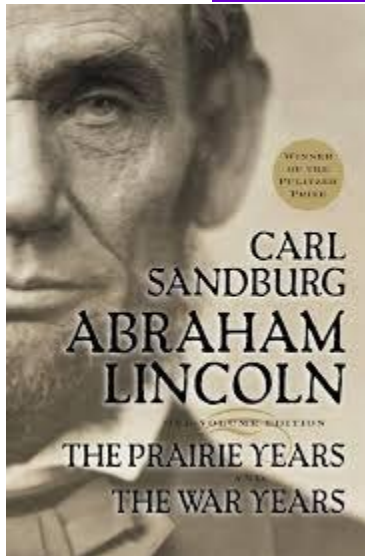
- **Robert Frost Medal (1952):** Awarded by the Poetry Society of America for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry.
- **American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal (1952):** Awarded for History and Biography.
- **NAACP Silver Plaque Award (1965):** Recognized for his contributions to civil rights and his 1919 reporting on the Chicago race riots.
- **Litteris et Artibus Medal (1959):** Awarded by King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden.
- **Order of the North Star (1938):** Awarded by the King of Sweden.
- **International United Poets Laureate Award (1963):** Named Honorary Poet Laureate of the United States.

Academic and Civic Honors

- **Poet Laureate of Illinois (1962):** Designated by the state.
- **Honorary Degrees:** Received from numerous institutions, including Harvard, Yale, Northwestern University, Knox College, and Uppsala University (Sweden).
- **Address to Congress (1959):** Invited to deliver an address before a joint session of Congress on the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.
- **American Poets' Corner (2018):** Inducted at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York (posthumous).
- **Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (1968):** Congress authorized his Flat Rock, North Carolina, estate as a National Park unit, the first to honor a poet.

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Abraham Lincoln: The War Years

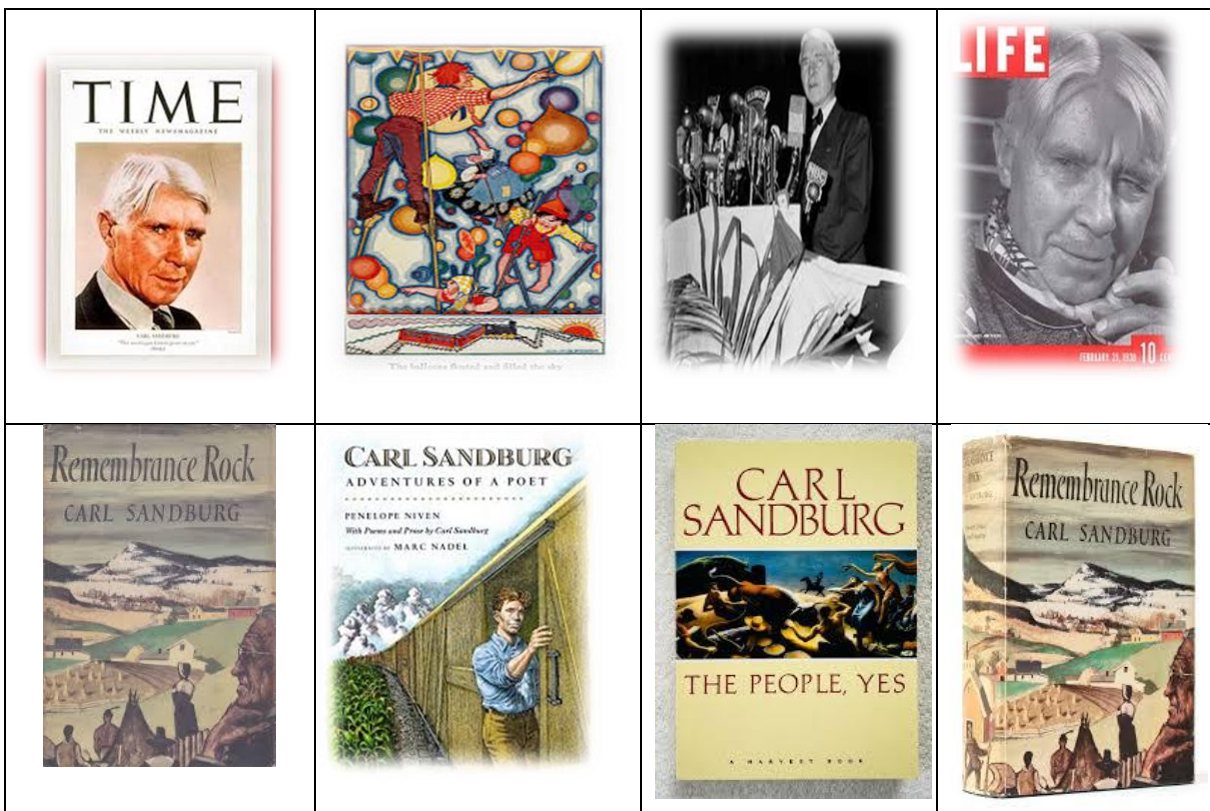


Abraham Lincoln: The War Years, four-volume biography by Carl Sandburg, published in 1939. It was awarded the 1940 Pulitzer Prize for history. After the success of Sandburg's 1926 biography, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*, Sandburg turned to Lincoln's life after 1861, devoting 11 years to research and writing. The biography is informed not only by the author's journalistic style but also by his unwavering admiration for Franklin D. Roosevelt's liberal New Deal politics. Sandburg held that both Lincoln and FDR were representative of the voice of the American people, and in many respects the biography expresses his faith in the workings of democracy through the office of a compassionate, gifted leader.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln:_The_War_Years

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.80459/page/n9/mode/2up>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/American-Civil-War>



Books

- 01] <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/carl-sandburg.html>
- 02] <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/published-works-by-carl-sandburg.htm>
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/16380.Carl_Sandburg
- 04] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/carl-sandburg/212517/?srsltid=AfmBOooXapohWFSmc7xK9nmhZrObNiAPe67wV_AjqJL16a9hLjnl7TSZr
- 05] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Sandburg_bibliography

Published Works

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/published-works-by-carl-sandburg.htm>

Carl Sandburg was a writer through and through. Despite criticism, time, and the difficulties life threw at him, his efforts stood out. His writing, be it poetry or journalism, drew in admirers and won many awards over the years. Sandburg dipped his pen into many different genres, from poetry to non-fiction, to history, and to children's books. As with any writer Sandburg was not free of criticism. Critics of his poetry questioned his style and were not always welcoming to free verse poetry. Yet others felt his poetry captured the essence of American life in the 20th century. His writing could have a life of its own, as many authors have expressed. He began some projects, like his children's Lincoln history, with one idea and finished as something else entirely.

Some Videos

01] The Day Carl Sandburg Died - American Masters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4bitqTJfFE> [1:25:39]

02] Meet Carl Sandburg - Poet - Folk Singer - Author - Historian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9AvPrZy4f4> [54:50]

03] History + Highballs: A Walk in the Woods with Carl Sandburg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4mJL4lAP3c> [55:05]

04] Poet Carl Sandburg interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGfQS1yNhaQ> [37:30]

Although his father never learned to read and seemed to question the inherent value of literacy, Carl Sandburg's mother loved books and encouraged their appreciation.

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Quotable QUOTES

- Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.
- If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table and yell like hell.
- For we know when a nation goes down and never comes back, when a society or a civilization perishes, one condition may always be found. They forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what brought them along.
- Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln never saw a movie, heard a radio or looked at television. They had 'Loneliness' and knew what to do with it. They were not afraid of being lonely because they knew that was when the creative mood in them would work.
- If [America] forgets where she came from, if the people lose sight of what brought them along, if she listens to the deniers and mockers, then will begin the rot and dissolution.

01] <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/carl-sandburg-quotes>

02] https://www.azquotes.com/author/12946-Carl_Sandburg

03] <https://quotefancy.com/carl-sandburg-quotes>

04] <https://www.britannica.com/quotes/Carl-Sandburg>

05] https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/16380.Carl_Sandburg?page=1



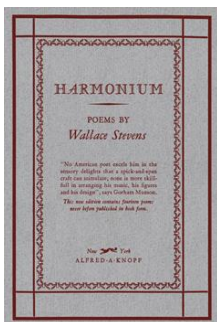
WALLACE STEVENS

(1879-1955)

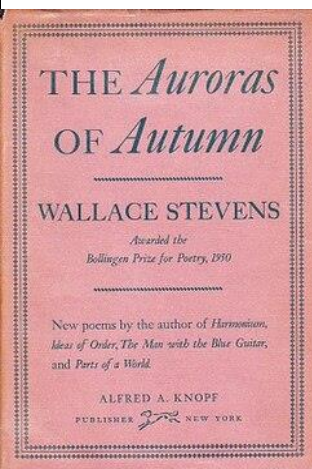
" Style is not something applied. It is something that permeates. It is of the nature of that in which it is found, whether the poem, the manner of a god, the bearing of a man. It is not a dress."

Compiled by:

Viola Dhill Christina I <::> Reg No. 253313111004



Harmonium is a book of poetry by American poet Wallace Stevens. His first book at the age of forty-four, it was published in 1923 by Knopf in an edition of 1,500 copies. This collection comprises 85 poems, ranging in length from just a few lines ("Life Is Motion") to several hundred ("The Comedian as the Letter C") (see the footnotes for the table of contents). *Harmonium* was reissued in 1931 with three poems omitted and fourteen new poems added.



The *Auroras of Autumn* is a 1950 book of poetry by Wallace Stevens. The book of poems contains the long poem of 10 cantos by Stevens of the same name.

Books

- 01] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonium_\(poetry_collection\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonium_(poetry_collection))
- 02] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Auroras_of_Autumn
- 03] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Idea_of_Order_at_Key_West
- 04] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_with_the_Blue_Guitar
- 05] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Of_Modern_Poetry

- A] https://mypoeticside.com/poets/wallace-stevens-poems#google_vignette
- B] <https://poemanalysis.com/wallace-stevens/biography/>
- C] <https://poets.org/poet/wallace-stevens>
- D] <https://voetica.com/poets/40?1>
- E] <https://www.loa.org/books/3-collected-poetry-amp-prose/>



Stevens's wife, Elsie, may have been a model for the national Walking Liberty half dollar when the couple lived in New York City.



Stevens with B. R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, at Columbia University on June 5, 1952



Stevens's Hartford residence

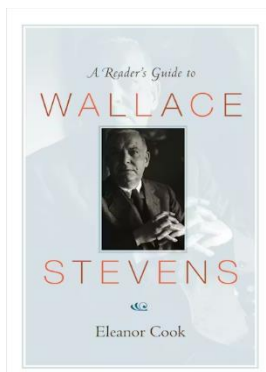
Awards

During his lifetime, Stevens received numerous awards in recognition of his work, including:

- Bollingen Prize for Poetry (1949)
- National Book Award for Poetry (1951, 1955) for *The Auroras of Autumn*, *The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens*
- Frost Medal (1951)
- Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1955) for *Collected Poems*

The Wallace Stevens Society

<https://wallacestevens.com/>



The Wallace Stevens Society promotes the study of Wallace Stevens's poetry through the publication of **The Wallace Stevens Journal**. Membership in the Society comes with a subscription to the Journal, which is published for the Society by The Johns Hopkins University Press. The Society also arranges conferences and sponsors panels on Wallace Stevens at national and international conventions. This website contains not only a useful concordance to Stevens's poetry, but also valuable information about upcoming events, submission guidelines for articles, links to other Stevens resources, subscription and contact information.

Some Videos

- 01] Wallace Stevens as an American Poet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR8FOV7vEng> [1:00:22]
- 02] Wallace Stevens: His Life and Work
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2Djdm_Ykww [42:11]
- 03] Wallace Stevens documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvvAosajLbk> [57:08]
- 04] "Life is Motion": Motion in Wallace Stevens (2015 Lincoln Kirstein Lecture)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qc_ipE4r7KE [1:24:22]
- 05] The Collected Public Domain Poems of Wallace Stevens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nw-LDjTwps> [1:22:56]



Quotable QUOTES

- ❖ It's not always easy to tell the difference between thinking and looking out of the window.
- ❖ Time is a horse that runs in the heart, a horse. Without a rider on a road at night. The mind sits listening and hears it pass.
- ❖ The day of the sun is like the day of a king. It is a promenade in the morning, a sitting on the throne at noon, a pageant in the evening.
- ❖ What our eyes behold may well be the text of life but one's meditations on the text and the disclosures of these meditations are no less a part of the structure of reality.
- ❖ Most people read poetry listening for echoes because the echoes are familiar to them. They wade through it the way a boy wades through water, feeling with his toes for the bottom: The echoes are the bottom.
- ❖ Style is not something applied. It is something that permeates. It is of the nature of that in which it is found, whether the poem, the manner of a god, the bearing of a man. It is not a dress.

- 01] <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/wallace-stevens-quotes>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/42920.Wallace_Stevens
- 03] https://www.azquotes.com/author/14115-Wallace_Stevens
- 04] <https://quotefancy.com/wallace-stevens-quotes/page/1>
- 05] <https://www.britannica.com/quotes/Wallace-Stevens>
- 06] https://www.azquotes.com/author/14115-Wallace_Stevens/tag/imagination
- 07] <https://www.allgreatquotes.com/authors/wallace-stevens/>



An Interesting Profile

Wallace Stevens (1879-1955) was a major American Modernist poet known for leading a double life as a quiet, Hartford-based insurance executive and a brilliant, imaginative writer. He published his influential debut, *Harmonium*, at 44, focusing on the transformative power of imagination, and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1955.

- **Life as a Dual Existence:** Stevens was a vice president for The Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, famously composing poems during his long walks to work.
- **Key Works:** Beyond his first book *Harmonium* (1923), major works include *The Man with the Blue Guitar* (1937), *Parts of a World* (1942), *The Auroras of Autumn* (1950), and *The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens* (1954).
- **Key Themes & Style:** His poetry explores the intersection of reality and imagination, frequently using vivid, tropical imagery (Key West) and philosophical contemplation.
- **Personal Life:** He had a strained, increasingly unhappy marriage with Elsie Viola Kachel, with whom he had a daughter.
- **Notable Biographies:** *The Whole Harmonium: The Life of Wallace Stevens* by Paul Mariani offers a comprehensive look at his life.
- **Prose & Letters:** *The Necessary Angel* (1951) is a collection of his essays on poetry, and his letters are valuable for understanding his perspective.

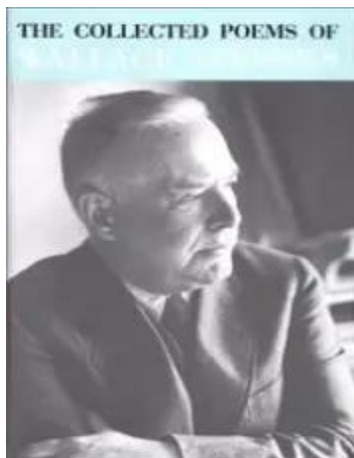
Though often considered a "difficult" poet, Stevens is recognized for his unique, elegant, and profound contribution to American poetry.

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The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens

Winner, National Book Awards 1955 for Poetry

<https://www.nationalbook.org/books/the-collected-poems-of-wallace-stevens/>



The Collected Poems is the one volume that Stevens intended to contain all the poems he wished to preserve, presented in the way he wanted. It is an enduring monument to his dazzling achievement.

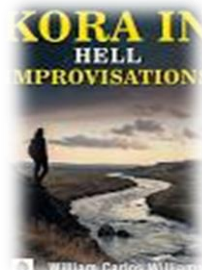


WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS (1883-1963)

" One thing I am convinced more and more is true, and that is this: The only way to be truly happy is to make others happy. When you realize that and take advantage of the fact, everything is made perfect."

Compiled by:

Viola Dhill Christina I <::> Reg No. 253313111004



Books

- 01] <https://poets.org/poet/william-carlos-williams>
- 02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/8885>
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/15435.William_Carlos_Williams
- 04] <https://www.ndbooks.com/author/william-carlos-williams/>
- 05] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/william-carlos-williams>
- 06] <https://www.nationalbook.org/people/william-carlos-williams/#fullBio>

National Book Awards

<https://www.nationalbook.org/people/william-carlos-williams/#fullBio>

William Carlos Williams

Finalist, National Book Awards 1963
 Finalist, 1959 National Book Awards
 Finalist, 1956 National Book Awards
 Finalist, 1955 National Book Awards
 Finalist, 1953 National Book Awards
 Finalist, 1952 National Book Awards
 Winner, 1950 National Book Awards

William Carlos Williams (1883-1963), author of *Paterson* and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Pictures from Brueghel*, is widely considered one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century. Also a short-story writer, novelist, essayist, and translator, he helped in a big way to establish modernism in America. **Williams is the only poet to win a National Book Award for two books in the same year.**

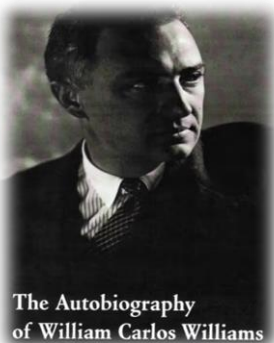
Key Aspects of the Memoirs

The Autobiography of William Carlos Williams (1951) details his dual life as a dedicated New Jersey pediatrician and a pioneering modernist poet. It covers his education, friendships with figures like Ezra Pound, critiques of T.S. Eliot, and his commitment to American idiom, revealing how his medical practice fueled his literary work.

- **Medical & Literary Life:** Williams explains how his busy life as a doctor in Rutherford, New Jersey, provided the raw material for his poetry and prose, allowing him to observe life directly.
- **Critique of Contemporaries:** The book highlights his critical view of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, which he felt set American poetry back by moving away from local, accessible, and colloquial language.
- **Personal and Professional Reflections:** It includes reflections on his upbringing, his time in Europe, his marriage, and the development of his poetic style.
- **Key Themes:** The text emphasizes his focus on "the thing itself" (imagism), the importance of local context, and his commitment to finding a new, American form of expression.

For more insights into his life, you might also look at [*The Doctor Stories by William Carlos Williams*](#).

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<https://www.ndbooks.com/book/the-autobiography-of-william-carlos-williams/>

William Carlos Williams's medical practice and his literary career formed an undivided life. For forty years he was a busy doctor in the town of Rutherford, New Jersey, and yet he was able to write more than thirty books. One of the finest chapters in this Autobiography tells how each of his two roles stimulated and supported the other. We meet in these pages many of Williams's friends: he writes with discerning frankness of the poets H.D., Ezra Pound, and Marianne Moore; of the artists Charles Demuth, Marsden Hartley, Charles Sheeler, and the photographer Alfred Stieglitz; and there are fine portraits of the writers who congregated in Paris in the Twenties: Joyce, Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and Ford Madox Ford. The

Autobiography is an unpretentious book; it reads much as Williams talked--spontaneously and often with a special kind of salty humor. But it is a very human story, glowing with warmth and sensitivity. It brings us close to a rare man and lets us share his affectionate concern for the people to whom he ministered, body and soul, through a long rich life as physician and writer.

William Carlos Williams Award

The William Carlos Williams Award is an annual poetry prize presented by the Poetry Society of America for a book of poetry published by a small press, non-profit, or university press. It recognizes outstanding, often overlooked, poetry collections and serves as a "purchase prize" for the winning work, sometimes funded by the family of poet Geraldine Clinton Little.

Key Details About the Award

- **Purpose:** To recognize and promote excellent poetry books from small, independent, or university publishers.
- **Value:** Generally acts as a purchase prize, with recent awards around \$500–\$1000.
- **Administration:** Awarded annually by the Poetry Society of America.
- **Selection:** The award is typically determined by a guest judge, often a prominent poet or critic.

01] https://gropedia.com/page/william_carlos_williams_award

02] <https://poetrysociety.org/award-winners/poetry-society-of-america-book-award-2025/william-carlos-williams-award>

03] <https://www.goodreads.com/award/show/23384-william-carlos-williams-award>

04] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Carlos_Williams_Award

Landscape with the Fall of Icarus (poem)

<https://allpoetry.com/Landscape-With-The-Fall-Of-Icarus>



"Landscape with the Fall of Icarus" is an ecphrastic poem by the 20th-century American poet William Carlos Williams that was written in response to *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*, traditionally attributed to Pieter Bruegel. Williams first published the poem as part of a sequence in *The Hudson Review* in 1960,[1] subsequently using the sequence as the basis for his final book, *Pictures from Bruegel and Other Poems*, published in 1962.[2]

The poem, as indicated by the title, touches upon the story from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, in which Icarus, the son of Daedalus, took flight from Crete, where he and his father were trapped in exile, wearing wings made from wax and feathers. Icarus, disregarding one of his father's wishes that he not fly too close to the sun, did just that and melted his way to a feathery demise, drowning in the sea. The other warning from Daedalus was to not fly too close to the sea or the feathers of Icarus' wings would get wet and thus fail. This subject – and Bruegel's painting – are also treated by another Modernist poet, W. H. Auden, in *"Musée des Beaux Arts"*, first published in 1939.

Some Videos

01] William Carlos Williams documentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Du1DJli1_jY [56:00]

In addition to his writing, Williams had a long career as a physician practicing both pediatrics and general medicine. He was affiliated with Passaic General Hospital, where he served as the hospital's chief of pediatrics from 1924 until his death. The hospital, which is now known as St. Mary's General Hospital, paid tribute to Williams with a memorial plaque that states "We walk the wards that Williams walked".

02] Allen Ginsberg class on William Carlos Williams and prosody (PART 1)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCt6Or_BuBg [57:05]

03] The Red Wheelbarrow | William Carlos Williams || Dr. A. Raghu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdHyOW8ZQRQ> [38:32]

This iconic poem of William Carlos Williams is frequently seen by students as a naively simple piece, even as a specimen of children's literature. Far from it, The Red Wheelbarrow is a spectacular exemplification of Imagist poetry at its best, a deep mine of semantic profundity, that richly rewards the digger with the requisite skills, patience and effort. In this video, Dr. A. Raghu guides the reader step by step through a marvellous, nuanced exploration of this gem of Imagist poetry. The Red Wheelbarrow is not only highly anthologised and widely prescribed, but also a favourite of questions-paper setters.

04] William Carlos Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQBRdrFkrsw> [48:26]

The poetry of William Carlos Williams is presented and analyzed. His use of enjambment to surprise and transform is examined in order to highlight Williams's interest in depicting creative and cognitive processes. The Imagist qualities of much of Williams's poetry is considered alongside his engagement with modernist art—particularly the preoccupation of Duchamps and Cubist painters with the process of representing sensual perception. His free verse, which includes the innovative use of white space and carefully, visually balanced lines, establishes his position as one of the most visually-oriented poets in all of modernism.

05] PoemTalk 147 Full Video: On William Carlos Williams's "Spring and All"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NnDQvfFkfw> [51:51]

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SINCLAIR LEWIS

(1885-1951)

"Advertising is a valuable economic factor because it is the cheapest way of selling goods, particularly if the goods are worthless."

The Sinclair Lewis Society

An Illinois State University site

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/sinclair-lewis/>

Sinclair Lewis

Sinclair Lewis, the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, was born in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, in 1885. Although he was proud of his Midwestern roots, he traveled widely and was interested in many different aspects of American society, from business and medicine to religion and small-town life. His concern with issues involving gender, race, and the powerless in society make his work still vital and pertinent today. As Sheldon Norman Grebstein wrote in his work Sinclair Lewis, Lewis "was the conscience of his generation and he could well serve as the conscience of our own. His analysis of the America of the 1920s holds true for the America of today. His prophecies have become our truths and his fears our most crucial problems." Sinclair Lewis was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Main Street and Babbitt and won the award for Arrowsmith (although he turned it down). He was a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He died in Rome in 1951.

A] Timeline

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/sinclair-lewis/#timeline>

B] Publications

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/sinclair-lewis/#publications>

C] Interviews

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/sinclair-lewis/#interviews>

D] Favourite Recipes

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/sinclair-lewis/#recipes>

E] Quiz

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/sinclair-lewis/#quiz>

F] Frequently Asked Questions

<https://about.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/faq/>

Nobel Prize in Literature: 1930

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1930/lewis/facts/>

Sinclair Lewis

Nobel Prize in Literature 1930

Born: 7 February 1885, Sauk Centre, MN, USA

Died: 10 January 1951, Rome, Italy

Residence at the time of the award: USA

Prize motivation:

"for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humour, new types of characters"

Language: English

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1930/lewis/lecture/>

Sinclair Lewis Foundation

<https://www.sinclairlewisfoundation.org/statue>



A life-size bronze statue of author Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951) stands on the library lawn in his hometown of Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Unveiled on July 1, 2019, the sculpture depicts a young Lewis and was created by artist Nick Christensen of Broden Studios. It was sponsored by Artify Sauk Centre to honor the first American Nobel Prize in Literature winner.

Key Details about the Statue:

- **Location:** Outside the Sinclair Lewis Public Library in Sauk Centre, MN.
- **Artist:** Nick Christensen.
- **Significance:** It commemorates the author of *Main Street* and *Babbitt*, who was born in the town.
- **Appearance:** The statue represents Lewis as a young man.



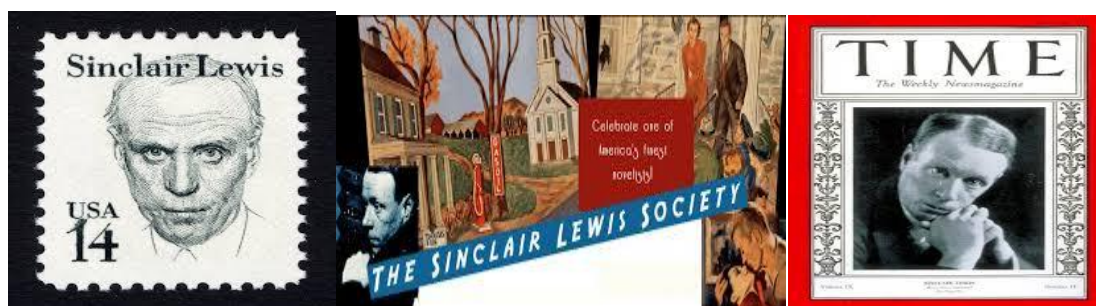
Books

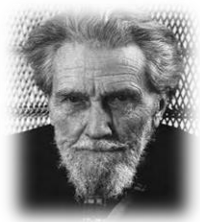
- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/73768.Best_of_Sinclair_Lewis
- 02] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/278>
- 03] <https://www.loa.org/writers/277-sinclair-lewis/>
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/sinclair-lewis/_/N-2kme

Quotable QUOTES

- When audiences come to see us authors lecture, it is largely in the hope that we'll be funnier to look at than to read.
- When audiences come to see us authors lecture, it is largely in the hope that we'll be funnier to look at than to read.
- I am convinced that everything that is worthwhile in the world has been accomplished by the free, inquiring, critical spirit, and that the preservation of this spirit is more important than any social system whatsoever. But the men of ritual and the men of barbarism are capable of shutting up the men of science and silencing them forever.
- Think how much better it is to criticize conventional customs if you yourself live up to them, scrupulously.

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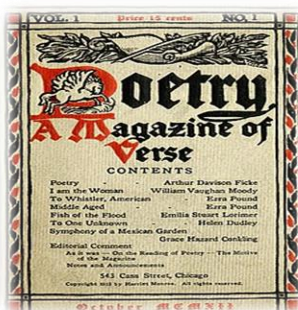
EZRA POUND

(1885-1972)

" Literature does not exist in a vacuum. Writers as such have a definite social function exactly proportional to their ability as writers. This is their main use."

Compiled by:

Sanju R <::> Reg No. 243313111002



His Legacy

Ezra Pound (1885-1972) was a foundational, highly influential, and deeply controversial 20th-century American poet who revolutionized modern literature through Imagism and Vorticism. He championed "making it new" by advocating for precision, concision, and free verse, while also acting as a crucial mentor to T.S. Eliot and James Joyce. Despite his technical mastery, his legacy is heavily

tarnished by his active promotion of Italian Fascism and antisemitic views during World War II

Key aspects of Ezra Pound's legacy include:

- **Modernist Innovation:** Pound was a central figure in defining modernism, pushing poetry away from Victorian, embellished styles toward direct treatment, economy of language, and new, experimental forms.
- **Imagism and Vorticism:** He founded the Imagist movement (1912) and later developed Vorticism, focusing on energy, movement, and sharp, vivid imagery.
- **"Make it New":** His famous motto encouraged innovation, which he applied through his own work, such as the epic, complex, and sometimes chaotic [The Cantos](#), as well as his influential translations of Chinese and Provençal poetry.
- **Influential Mentor:** Pound significantly impacted 20th-century literature by editing and promoting major writers, including [T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"](#), [James Joyce's "Ulysses"](#), and [Ernest Hemingway](#).
- **Political Controversy:** During WWII, Pound made radio broadcasts from Italy supporting Mussolini, attacking the U.S. government, and expressing virulent antisemitism. He was arrested for treason in 1943, declared mentally unfit for trial, and confined to St. Elizabeths Hospital for 12 years.
- **The "Divided" Legacy:** Despite his abhorrent political actions, his work was awarded the prestigious Bollingen Prize in 1949, sparking intense debate over whether art can be separated from the artist's abhorrent views.

Pound remains a paradox: a brilliant, transformative literary figure whose immense contribution to poetry is forever shadowed by his extreme, hateful political, and ideological choices.

[Key Works by Ezra Pound](#)

Ezra Pound (1885–1972) was a major American Modernist poet and critic known for pioneering Imagism and Vorticism. His most famous works include the sprawling epic [The Cantos](#), the Imagist poem "[In a Station of the Metro](#)," and the critical, reflective collection [Hugh Selwyn Mauberley](#). Other key works include [Cathay](#) (translations), [Personae](#), and [The Pisan Cantos](#).

- **[The Cantos \(1915–1962\)](#):** An epic, unfinished poem of over 100 sections, exploring history, economics, and culture.
- **["In a Station of the Metro" \(1913\)](#):** A quintessential two-line Imagist poem comparing faces in a metro to petals on a bough.

- **Hugh Selwyn Mauberley (1920):**
A series of poems reflecting on his life in London and the state of 2222 culture after WWI.
- **The Pisan Cantos (1948):** Written while detained in a U.S. Army disciplinary center, winning the first Bollingen Prize.
- **Cathay (1915):** Translations of Chinese poetry, particularly from the notes of Ernest Fenollosa.
- **Personae (1909):** A collection of his early poems.
- **"The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter":** A widely anthologized poem from *Cathay*.
- **Ripostes (1912):** A collection featuring a shift towards more direct language.
- **Prose & Criticism:** *The Spirit of Romance* (1910), *ABC of Reading* (1934), and *Literary Essays of Ezra Pound*.

Pound's work is characterized by precision, brevity, and the use of concrete imagery, heavily influencing 20th-century literature.

Our Contemporaries

<https://allpoetry.com/Our-Contemporaries>

When the Tahitian princess
Heard that he had decided,
She rushed out into the sunlight and swarmed up a
cocoanut palm tree,

But he returned to this island
And wrote ninety Petrarchan sonnets.

New Times Articles

Between late 1955 and early 1957, Pound wrote at least 80 unsigned or pseudonymous articles—"often ugly", Swift notes—for the *New Times* of Melbourne, a newspaper connected to the social-credit movement. Noel Stock, one of Pound's correspondents and early biographers, worked for the paper and published Pound's articles there. A 24-year-old radio reporter at the time, Stock first wrote to Pound in hospital after reading *The Pisan Cantos*.

In the *New Times* in April 1956, Pound wrote: "Our Victorian forebears would have been greatly scandalized at the idea that one might not be free to study inherited racial characteristics," and "Some races are retentive, mainly of the least desirable bits of their barbaric past." There was a "Jewish-Communist plot", which he compared to syphilis. Equality was dismissed as "anti-biological nonsense". "There were no gas ovens in Italy", he wrote in April 1956; a month later he referred to the "fuss about Hitler". On 10 August 1956: "It is perfectly well known that the

fuss about 'de-segregation' in the United States has been started by Jews." Instead, America needed "race pride". Using pseudonyms, he sent his articles directly to Stock, so that the newspaper's editor may not have realized they had all been written by Pound. Stock sent Pound copies of the published articles, which he would distribute to his followers. He contributed similar material to other publications, including *Edge*, which Stock founded in October 1956. Stock called *Edge* the magazine of the "international Poundian underground"

Some Videos

01] Voices and Visions 10 Ezra Pound

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NETupSPHa4o> [57:07]

The most controversial of modern American poets, Ezra Pound (1885-1972) was the driving force in the creation of the modernist movement. This program focuses on Pound's bold theories and poetic experiments as well as on his treasonous politics, and features Pound and others reading his poetry and exploring the events of his dramatic and turbulent life.

02] Ezra Pound

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYQ7dWVI_I8 [52:03]

The lecture introduces the poetry of Ezra Pound. Tensions in Pound's personality and career are considered, particularly in terms of his relationships with other poets and his fascism and anti-capitalism. The poem "The Seafarer" is examined as a quintessentially Poundian project in its treatment and translation of poetic forms. The first Canto of his epic project, The Cantos, is analyzed as a meditation on the process of expressing and engaging with history and literary tradition.

03] Ezra Pound Lecture Series - From Idleness to Splendor: Poetic Legacy with Dr. John Gery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20cEo7-KbrM> [1:34:12]

John Gery, Ph.D., Research Professor at the University of New Orleans, Secretary of the annual Ezra Pound International Conference and Fulbright Scholar, examines Pound's body of work and his literary influence.

04] Poetry Thursday: The Cantos by Ezra Pound

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNEeDo5me6M> [39:00]

05] Literary Birthday Celebration: Ezra Pound

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7VXoClZAu4> [49:27]

Poets Elizabeth Arnold and Charles Bernstein celebrate the birthday of poet Ezra Pound by reading selections from his work and discussing his influence on their own writing.

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ROBINSON JEFFERS

(1887-1962)

" A little too abstract, a little too wise, It is time for us to
kiss the earth again, it is time to let the leaves rain from
the skies, Let the rich life run to the roots again."

Compiled by:

Deborah Priscilla I <::> Reg No. 253313111005

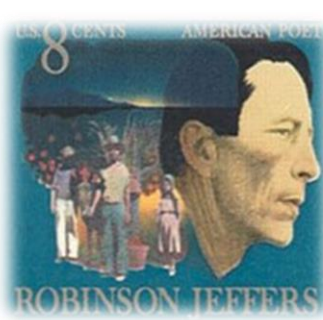
Key Aspects of Robinson Jeffers' Legacy

Robinson Jeffers (1887-1962) left a legacy as a powerful, often controversial, American poet known for his "Inhumanist" philosophy, which prioritized the sublime beauty of nature over the importance of humanity. Based in Carmel, California, he used long, dramatic narrative verse to critique civilization and environmental destruction. His legacy includes pioneering ecological poetry, influencing later writers like Charles Bukowski, and building the iconic Tor House and Hawk Tower.

- **"Inhumanism" and Ecology:** Jeffers is considered a precursor to modern environmentalist poetry. He rejected the anthropocentric view, arguing that humanity is not the center of the universe, and focused on the, "splendor of things" and the "ruthlessness of nature".
- **The Poet of the California Coast:** His work, particularly "Tamar and Other Poems" (1924), is deeply rooted in the dramatic landscape of the Big Sur coast, which he celebrated as a, "pagan" and, "primitive" landscape.
- **Literary Impact:** At his peak in the 1930s, he was a major American voice, featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1932. He was known for long, narrative poems and verse dramas, including adaptations of Greek tragedies.
- **Tor House and Hawk Tower:** Jeffers built his own home and a 40-foot stone tower in Carmel from local granite, which stand as a physical monument to his life and work.
- **Controversy and Decline:** His sharp criticism of 20th-century American materialism, democracy, and his isolationist stance regarding World War II led to a decline in his popularity in the 1940s, though his reputation has seen a resurgence.

- **Influences:** His work resonated with, and influenced, artists including Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, and poets like Czesław Miłosz.

His work is often associated with a, "rough aesthetic," focusing on intense, often violent, narratives.



Some Useful Web Links

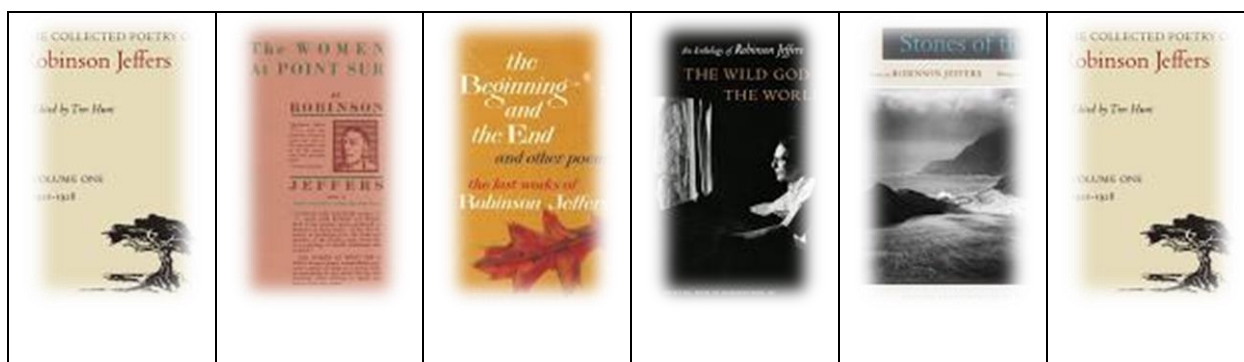
- 01] <https://www.sup.org/books/literary-studies-and-literature/robinson-jeffers/excerpt/introduction>
- 02] <https://poets.org/poet/robinson-jeffers>
- 03] <https://thesandpiper.org/robinson-jeffers-the-life-and-legacy-of-one-of-the-great-american-poets/>
- 04] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robinson-Jeffers>
- 05] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robinson-jeffers>

"Fire on the Hills," by Robinson Jeffers

<https://slantbooks.org/close-reading/essays/fire-on-the-hills-by-robinson-jeffers/>



The literary critic Stanley Fish has lamented that when poets are not taught in classrooms, they cease to exist. That's extreme, but there's some truth to it, and among modern American poets, a case in point is Robinson Jeffers. He's rarely on syllabi, and it has been this way for a long time. Many believe he's reactionary and bombastic, and, in his body of work, there's evidence for this judgment. But at his best, Jeffers is a powerful Nature poet, especially in his descriptions of the central California coast. He's well worth reading, studying, and learning from.



Web Links for his Books

- 01] <https://robinsonjeffersassociation.org/his-writing/bibliography/>
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/86931/selected-poems-of-robinson-jeffers-by-robinson-jeffers/>
- 03] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/robinson-jeffers/214535/?srsltid=AfmBOoonZ9gC3hnBvUujT_UIT0QzbvatIE_FhG0XC-Q6892EiyBZW_gW
- 04] <https://www.ndbooks.com/author/robinson-jeffers/>
- 05] <https://archive.org/details/selectedpoetryof009002mbp>

Some Videos

- 01] The Big Read: A Focus on Robinson Jeffers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uX6iGESuk6M> [1:03:49]
- 02] Robinson Jeffers (with Prof. Tim Hunt)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ubdTABcXUg> [1:23:44]

Prof. Tim Hunt (tahunt.com) answers questions about the life and work of American poet Robinson Jeffers. From a live Zoom conversation held with Jackson Crawford's Patreon supporters on November 21, 2023.

- 03] Robinson Jeffers' Tamar & Other Poems: A Centennial Appreciation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1FZ3awai44> [57:37]

When the California poet Robinson Jeffers published *Tamar & Other Poems*, his first major collection, in 1924, it struck reviewers as both timeless and powerfully of its moment. James Rorty declared that the poems "exhibit the maturity of a remarkable talent," and the poet Babette Deutsch confessed to feeling as "Keats professed to feel, on looking into Chapman's Homer." The centennial of the publication of this landmark of California literature by California's most significant modern poet offers an occasion to

revisit Tamar's unlikely discovery (aided by, as it happens, The Book Club of California) and to explore how the making of this collection and the story of its publication can help us recover and better understand its importance in its own era, while clarifying and deepening our understanding of its relevance for our own. No figure looms larger in the history of California poetry than Jeffers, and Tamar is the collection that shows why this is so and why it matters.

04] Robinson Jeffers & Contemporary Poetry: The On-Going Dialogue

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb24eWOG5og> [1:01:47]

In this webinar, the eighth in the RJA-THF series, two accomplished and important contemporary poets, Katie Peterson and André Naffis-Sahely, discussed their imaginative dialogues with Jeffers and explored his continued presence in contemporary poetry. This webinar was held on August 18, 2022 at 6pm (DPT).

05] Harry's Poetry Hour: Robinson Jeffers & William Butler Yeats

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSyyciAXpoY> [58:41]

Harry's Poetry Hour is produced and Hosted by Harry E. Northup and is recorded weekly as a part of MPTF Studios' Creative Chaos, a live broadcast of information and entertainment that was created to fight social isolation on the Wasserman Campus of the Motion Picture & Television Fund in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

06] Robinson Jeffers, Herman Melville & Lorine Niedecker: Poets of Transhumanity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdVpGLsCeTg> [1:06:27]

In his Preface to The Double Axe, Jeffers noted that the "philosophical attitude" informing his work "might be called Inhumanism." This has been misread at times as Jeffers asserting his presumed misanthropy, but in the Preface he characterizes Inhumanism not as an end in itself but as a means toward recognizing something else—"the transhuman magnificence."

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- Imagination, the traitor of the mind, has taken my solitude and slain it.
- Cruelty is a part of nature, at least of human nature, but it is the one thing that seems unnatural to us.
- The greatest beauty is organic wholeness, the wholeness of life and things, the divine beauty of the universe.
- https://www.azquotes.com/author/7390-Robinson_Jeffers
- https://todayinsci.com/J/Jeffers_Robinson/JeffersRobinson-Quotations.htm
- https://www.azquotes.com/author/7390-Robinson_Jeffers/tag/hate



MARIANNE MOORE

(1887-1972)

"It is quite cruel that a poet cannot wander through his regions of enchantment without having a critic, forever, like the old man of the sea, upon his back."



Nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature 1968

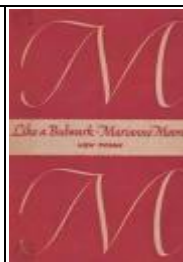
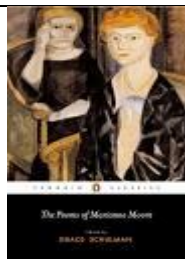
American modernist poet Marianne Moore (1887-1972) was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968 by committee member Erik Lindegren. While she did not win the Nobel Prize, she was highly recognized for her precise, witty poetry, winning the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Bollingen Prize.

Key Details Regarding Nobel Nomination:

- **Nomination Year:** 1968.
- **Nominator:** Erik Lindegren, member of the Nobel Committee.
- **Outcome:** Nominated, but did not win.

Other Major Awards:

- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1951):** For *Collected Poems*.
- **National Book Award (1951):** For *Collected Poems*.
- **Bollingen Prize (1951):** For *Collected Poems*.
- **National Medal for Literature (1968):**



Books

- 01] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/marianne-moore/214540/?srsltid=AfmBOopYoNXeXxiPOM_hssCWr5a6GPS2CApAg6mncld_euzqjnD-eo6WV
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/298271/selected-letters-of-marianne-moore-by-marianne-moore/>
- 03] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/62833>
- 04] <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/book/Marianne-Moore-New-Collected-Poems-of-Marianne-Moore-9780571315345>
- 05] <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/62833/62833-h/62833-h.htm>
- 06] <https://poets.org/poem/poetry>

Key aspects of Her Legacy

Marianne Moore (1887-1972) left a lasting legacy as a premier 20th-century American modernist poet known for her technical innovation, precision, and wit. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, she transformed American poetry through syllabic verse, intellectual rigor, and keen observation, breaking gender barriers for women in literature.

- **Poetic Innovation:** Moore is celebrated for her use of syllabic verse, where line lengths were determined by syllable count rather than stress, creating a "closely watched effect". Her work often combined meticulous descriptions of animals and nature with philosophical, ironic, or moralistic reflections.
- **Literary Influence:** As the editor of *The Dial* (1925–1929), she was a central figure in American Modernism, encouraging poets like [Wallace Stevens](#) and [William Carlos Williams](#). She was also a mentor to Elizabeth Bishop.
- **Accolades & Recognition:** She won the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and Bolling Prize in 1951–1952 for her *Collected Poems*.
- **Public Persona:** Known for her signature tricorne hat and cape, she became a rare celebrity poet, even appearing in *Life* and *Look* magazines.
- **"Imaginary Gardens with Real Toads":** Her most famous phrase from the poem "Poetry" signifies her belief that poetry should combine the imagination with concrete, real-world, and often unpoetic details.

- **Preservation & Cultural Impact:** The [Rosenbach Museum and Library](#) in Philadelphia preserves her living room and, famously, her collection of baseball memorabilia and writings on the sport.

Moore's legacy is also found in her dedication to meticulous craft—sometimes revising a poem 35 times—and her ability to blend high intellectualism with accessible, sharp observations.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/blogs/historical-society-blog/unearthing-past-life-and-legacy-marianne-moore>



Some Videos

01] Marianne Moore documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHw-9EEMowU> [56:35]

02] Marianne Moore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSB1XwOueWo> [43:26]

The poetry of Marianne Moore is considered alongside its preoccupations with gender, American culture, and nature. The poem "A Grave" is presented as characteristic of the prose rhythms and discursive manner of Moore's poems, including their use of expository language without meter or rhyme. The poem "England" is read as a defense of American culture, in opposition to the Eurocentricism of Eliot, Pound, and other modernists. In the poem "An Octopus," Moore makes use of excerpts from pamphlets and other unusual prose sources to suggest that inspiration is not limited to any one voice or to literary models.

03] Marianne Moore (cont.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_z3uJOKni1A [42:44]

The previous lecture's examination of "The Octopus" is continued, focusing on Moore's innovative use of quotation. The poem "Silence" is read in connection with nineteenth-century poetry and the poet's personal reticence. Selections from Elizabeth Bishop's personal memoir of Moore are presented with special attention to Moore's relationships with other modernists and male poets in particular. The poem "To a Snail" is considered as a meditation on style and compression, and a reading of "The Paper Nautilus" rounds out a wider examination of the use and meaning of restraint in Moore's poetry.

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KATHERINE ANNE PORTER

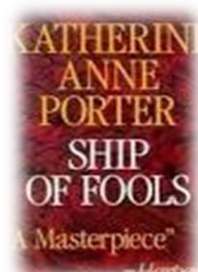
(1890 -1980)

" Our being is subject to all the chances of life. There are so many things we are capable of, that we could be or do. The potentialities are so great that we never, any of us, are more than one-fourth fulfilled."

Key Aspects of Her Legacy

Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980) left a legacy as a master of the American short story, known for her precise, ironic style and psychological depth in works like *Flowering Judas* and *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*. She won the 1966 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for her *Collected Stories*. Her only novel, *Ship of Fools* (1962), was a major bestseller.

- **Literary Acclaim:** A five-time Nobel Prize in Literature nominee (1964-1968), Porter was celebrated for her craftsmanship, which Eudora Welty described as having "no waste or extravagance".
- **Major Works:** Her reputation is built on her short fiction, including the collections *Flowering Judas and Other Stories* (1930) and *The Leaning Tower and Other Stories* (1944).
- **Major Novel:** *Ship of Fools* (1962), based on a 1931 voyage, was a commercial success that was adapted into a 1965 film.
- **Awards and Honors:** In addition to the 1966 Pulitzer and National Book Award, she received the Gold Medal Award for Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
- **Archival Legacy:** She donated her papers to the University of Maryland, which houses the [Katherine Anne Porter Room](#).
- **Cultural Landmark:** Her childhood home in Kyle, Texas, is preserved as the [Katherine Anne Porter House](#), a National Literary Landmark that hosts a writer-in-residence program.
- **Themes:** Her work frequently explored the complexities of human relationships, social injustice, and psychological tension.

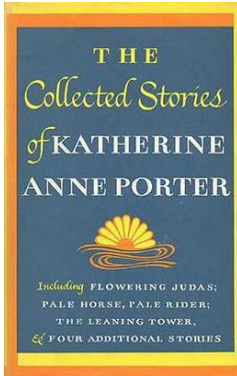


Some Web Links containing Books

- 01] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/katherine-anne-porter/196597/?srsltid=AfmBOorVWeg_40Zdmld471kOVDaKti2_bs-VRBST5-vN7Kmyz0B3sKZ
- 02] <https://lib.guides.umd.edu/c.php?g=327164&p=2195383>
- 03] https://www.biblio.com/authors/katherine-anne-porter/628?srsltid=AfmBOoogU8AKfqXu5_vvOu38MCao3TieDS-KOJYJDri05sBoPjaFznTt
- 04] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/katherine-anne-porter>
- 05] <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/literature-and-writing/collected-stories-katherine-anne-porter>

The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Collected_Stories_of_Katherine_Anne_Porter



The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter is a volume of her previously published collections of fiction and four uncollected works of short fiction.

Published in 1965 by [Harcourt, Brace & World](#), the volume includes 26 works of fiction—all the stories that Porter "ever finished and published" in her lifetime. *The Collected Works of Katherine Anne Porter* won the [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#)^[3] and the [National Book Award for Fiction](#).

Nominated for Nobel Prize

Katherine Anne Porter was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature five times between 1964 and 1968, but she did not win the award. She was, however, a highly acclaimed American author who won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1966 for her *Collected Stories*.

Key details regarding her accolades and nominations:

- **Nobel Nominations:** Porter was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature five times between 1964 and 1968.
- **Major Awards:** In 1966, she won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award for *The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter*.
- **Other Honors:** She was elected to the [National Institute of Arts and Letters](#) in 1966.

- **Famous Work:** She is best known for her short stories and her only novel, *Ship of Fools* (1962), which was adapted into an Oscar-winning film.

Although she did not receive the Nobel Prize, her 1966 honors solidified her reputation as a major American writer.

Awards & Honours

- 1962 – Emerson-Thoreau Medal
- 1966 – Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *The Collected Stories* (1965)
- 1966 – National Book Award for *The Collected Stories* (1965)
- 1967 – Gold Medal Award for Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters
- Five nominations for the Nobel Prize in Literature (1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968)
- 2006 – Porter was featured on a States postage stamp issued May 15, 2006 with a value of 39¢. She was the 22nd person featured in the *Literary Arts* commemorative stamp series.

Katherine Anne Porter Stamp

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/women-on-stamps-part-3-literature-multifaceted-writers/katherine-anne-porter>



Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980) is best known for her short stories and novel, but she also wrote essays, book reviews, articles, and screenplays. In 1962, Porter published *Ship of Fools*, her only novel, and achieved great success with the book. In 1965 Porter wrote her famous *Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter*, that won her the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1966.

The Katherine Anne Porter stamp is the twenty-second stamp in the *Literary Arts Series*. The ceremony was held at the Porter Literary Center in Kyle, Texas. The stamp was designed by Michael J. Deas and was inspired by a 1936 photograph of Porter that was taken by George Platt Lynes. Behind Porter's portrait is an ocean scene that is described in her novel, *Ship of Fools*.



EDWARD ESTLIN CUMMINGS

(1894 - 1962)

" To be nobody-but-yourself - in a world which is doing its best,
night and day, to make you everybody else - means to fight the
hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop
fighting."

Key Aspects of E.E. Cummings' Legacy

E.E. Cummings (1894-1962) left a lasting legacy as a revolutionary 20th-century poet, painter, and author who redefined literary modernism through radical experimentation. He is best remembered for shattering conventional syntax, grammar, and typography, using lowercase letters, unconventional punctuation, and visual arrangements (concrete poetry) to create a new, immediate form of expression.

- **Modernist Iconoclast**: Cummings is revered for his rebellion against traditional form, often using lowercase spelling (including "i") and innovative spacing to turn poems into visual art objects on the page.
- **Thematic Focus**: His work frequently celebrated love, individuality, and nature, while using severe satire to criticize conformity and the devastation of war.
- **Prolific Output**: He wrote approximately 2,900 poems, a novel (*The Enormous Room*), and created extensive artwork (paintings and drawings), cementing his status as a multi-talented artist.
- **Cultural Impact**: At the time of his death, he was the second most widely read poet in the United States, after Robert Frost.
- **Lasting Influence**: His pioneering techniques in visual poetry and fragmentation are seen as precursors to modern digital text and social media, where visual presentation significantly influences meaning.

His work, such as "i carry your heart," continues to resonate for its emotional depth and structural audacity, cementing his reputation as a master of both avant-garde form and heartfelt lyricism.

Some Selected Web Links

01] <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/arts-culture/harvard-e-e-cummings-modern-poetry>

02]

<https://oxfordre.com/literature/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-679>

- 03] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/e-e-cummings>
 04] <https://www.siue.edu/~jingle/Modern%20Poets.htm>
 05] <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/edward-estlin-cummings>

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Adaptations

Numerous composers have set Cummings's poems to music:

- In 1970, [Pierre Boulez](#) composed *Cummings ist der Dichter* ('cummings is the Poet') from poems by E. E. Cummings.
- [Aribert Reimann](#) set Cummings to music in "Impression IV" (1961) for soprano and piano.
- [Italian composer Luciano Berio's](#) 1960 composition *Circles* is a setting of three poems by E. E. Cummings, including the poems "Stinging", "Riverly Is a Flower", and "N(o)w".
- [Morton Feldman](#) (1926–1987) in 1951 composed "4 Songs to e.e. cummings" for soprano, piano and cello, using material from Cummings's *50 Poems* of 1940: "Blac", "Air", "(Sitting In A Tree-)" and "(Moan)".
- The Icelandic singer [Björk](#) used lines from Cummings's poem "I Will Wade Out" for the lyrics of "Sun in My Mouth" on her 2001 album *Vespertine*. On her next album, *Medúlla* (2004), Björk used his poem "It May Not Always Be So" as the lyrics for the song "Sonnets/Unrealities XI".
- The American composer [Eric Whitacre](#) wrote [a cycle of works for](#) choir titled *The City and the Sea*, which consists of five poems by Cummings set to music. He also wrote music for "little tree" and "i carry your heart", among others.

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Awards

During his lifetime, Cummings received numerous awards in recognition of his work, including:

- [Dial Award](#) (1925)
- [Guggenheim Fellowship](#) (1933)
- [Shelley Memorial Award](#) for Poetry (1945)
- Harriet Monroe Prize from *Poetry* magazine (1950)
- Fellowship of [American Academy of Poets](#) (1950)

- Guggenheim Fellowship (1951)
- [Charles Eliot Norton](#) Professorship at Harvard (1952-1953)
- Special citation from the [National Book Award](#) Committee for his *Poems*, 1923-1954 (1957)
- [Bollingen Prize](#) in Poetry (1958)
- Boston Arts Festival Award (1957)
- Two-year [Ford Foundation](#) grant of \$15,000 (1959)

Some Videos

01] The Poetry of E E Cummings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPqd6YvgG5o> [24:53]

02] e. e. Cummings documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrBvNppP6QI> [36:44]

Edward Estlin Cummings (October 14, 1894 – September 3, 1962), often written in all lowercase as e.e. cummings, was an American poet, painter, essayist, author, and playwright. He wrote approximately 2,900 poems, two autobiographical novels, four plays, and several essays. He is often regarded as one of the most important American poets of the 20th century. Cummings is associated with modernist free-form poetry. Much of his work has idiosyncratic syntax and uses lower-case spellings for poetic expression.

03] NYSL: Susan Cheever, E.E. Cummings: A Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHJgKSqQA-s> [49:22]

This rich, illuminating biography shows Cummings's idyllic childhood years in a mythic part of Cambridge, Massachusetts (the poet's parents were introduced by William James). From the beginning, he displayed the determination of a New Englander, a sense of fun and mimicry, and a desire to stand conventional wisdom on its head. At Harvard, he roomed with John Dos Passos, earned two degrees, discovered high living, and raged against the school's conservative rule.

04] XLI POEMS by E. E. Cummings ~ Full Audiobook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-rG1x-NQtg> [49:38]

05] Selected Poems of E. E. Cummings (ENG)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgrIUdZQUkg> [32:48]

06] 'if everything happens that can't be done' E. E. Cummings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXSHM-jc61M> [15:59]

Poetry recital performed by 'Helen Mirren' from the audio recording: 'The Poets' Corner', 2007 (used under 'fair usage' for teaching purposes and as a work of art that is 'transformative' of its original source material).

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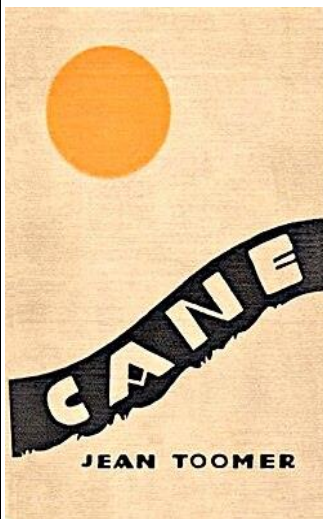


JEAN TOOMER

(1894 -1967)

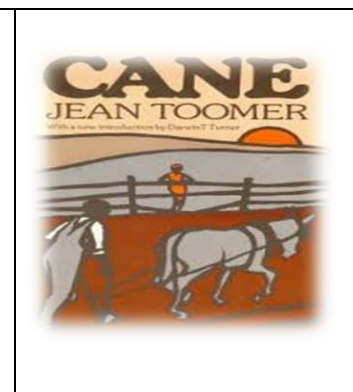
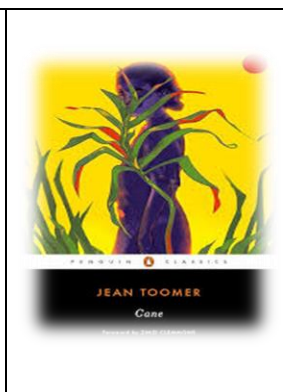
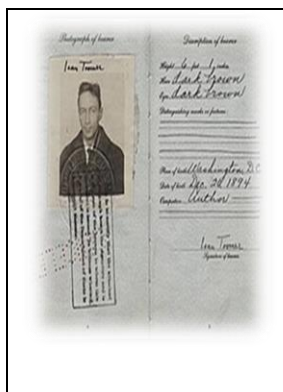
"Talk about it only enough to do it. Dream about it only enough to feel it. Think about it only enough to understand it. Contemplate it only enough to be it."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cane_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cane_(novel))



Cane is a 1923 novel by noted Harlem Renaissance author Jean Toomer. The novel is structured as a series of vignettes revolving around the origins and experiences of African Americans in the United States. The vignettes alternate in structure between narrative prose, poetry, and play-like passages of dialogue. As a result, the novel has been classified as a composite novel or as a short story cycle. Though some characters and situations recur in different vignettes, the vignettes are mostly freestanding, tied to the other vignettes thematically and contextually more than through specific plot details.

The novel's ambitious and unconventional structure is frequently discussed in the context of modernism. Some of the vignettes from the novel have been excerpted and included in literary collections, while the poetic passage "Harvest Song" has been featured in multiple Norton poetry anthologies. The poem begins with the line: "I am a reaper whose muscles set at sundown."



Key Themes and Notable Quotes

Jean Toomer (1894-1967) was an American modernist author and poet, best known for his 1923 masterpiece Cane, which explored themes of race, identity, and the human condition. His writing style often shifted from direct, sensory narratives to philosophical and spiritual reflections.

- **On Life and Growth:** "We learn the rope of life by untying its knots."
- **On Change and Understanding:** "To understand a new idea, break an old habit."
- **On Fear:** "Fear is a noose that binds until it strangles."
- **On Self-Awareness:** "In a sick world, it is the first duty of the artist to get well."
- **On Identity (from *Essentials*):** "I am of no particular race. I am of the human race, a man at large in the human world, preparing a new race."
- **On Art and Consciousness:** "I am not less poet; I am more conscious of all that I am, am not, and might become."
- **On Truth:** "Thank everyone who calls out your faults, your anger, your impatience, your egotism; do this consciously, voluntarily."
- **On Perspective (from *Cane*):** "There is no such thing as happiness. Life bends joy and pain, beauty and ugliness, in such a way that no one may isolate them."

Toomer's work, particularly his later aphoristic writings, focused on self-development and spiritual awakening.

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/60093/60093-h/60093-h.htm>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/25096.Jean_Toomer
- 03] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/jean-toomer>
- 04] <https://www.loa.org/writers/562-jean-toomer/>
- 05] <https://poets.org/poet/jean-toomer>
- 06] <https://uncpress.org/9780807842096/the-collected-poems-of-jean-toomer/>

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Key Aspects of Jean Toomer's Legacy

Jean Toomer (1894-1967) left a profound legacy as a central, experimental figure of the Harlem Renaissance, best known for his 1923 masterpiece, *Cane*. His work blended poetry, prose, and drama to vividly portray African American life in the rural South and urban North, challenging existing literary forms and racial categorization.

- ***Cane* (1923):** Considered a high modernist classic, *Cane* is celebrated for its lyrical style and structural experimentation, often compared to the best works of William Faulkner for its psychological depth.
- **Literary Modernism:** Toomer is recognized for uniting the Southern folk culture experience with the artistic techniques of the white avant-garde.
- **Fluidity of Identity:** As a person of mixed race, Toomer resisted racial labels, identifying simply as "American" and advocating for a "New American" identity, despite being a crucial voice in African American literature.
- **The Harlem Renaissance:** While he later distanced himself from the movement, his early work was pivotal in defining the artistic output of the 1920s.
- **Spiritual Seeking:** Later in life, Toomer became a follower of G.I. Gurdjieff, focusing on spiritual consciousness and philosophy, which shifted his later writing, though he never matched the commercial success of *Cane*.

After his death, a resurgence of interest in his work solidified his place as a pioneer in American literature, particularly for his nuanced exploration of race, identity, and the American landscape.

Some Videos

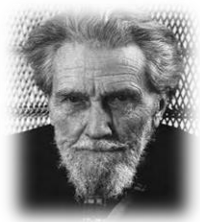
01] *Cane* by Jean Toomer - Book Summary, Analysis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVdPr8wwXXI> [57:47]

03] GREAT BOOKS 25 : Jean Toomer's *Cane*, with Ismail Muhammad (University of California, Berkeley)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d3fYHFPdlw> [1:04:26]

Jean Toomer's 1923 *Cane* is one of America's literary masterpieces: a book that captures the dynamism and rhythm of American English through characters that could not exist anywhere else in the world. The short novel is comprised of stories, tales, poetry and even songs, and in breaking with conventional genre it also broke with assumptions of who and what a book of modernist writing can feature. As a person who identified himself as the first "true American," Toomer was educated in both black and white schools the 1920s. For a while he lived in Georgia where *Cane* is set, peopled by African-Americans and whites who are living through the volatile, gorgeous and violent reality structured by but not entirely determined by our country's troubled race relations. But *Cane* is not a sociological treatise on race relations but as Ismail Muhammad explains, a book that resists and upends such interpretations. Toomer was furious when *Cane* was first marketed as a book by and about the African-American experience. While Toomer considered *Cane* the "swan song" of African-American folk culture rapidly destroyed by the industrialization of the South and the north-bound migration of African Americans during the era of Jim Crow, he did not want the book to be read only as a book about African-Americans. As Ismail Muhammad explains in an essay for the *Paris Review*, "far from being a book that [...] is intended to transcend blackness, *Cane* is the site where Toomer most artfully theorizes a surprisingly contemporary notion of what blackness means."



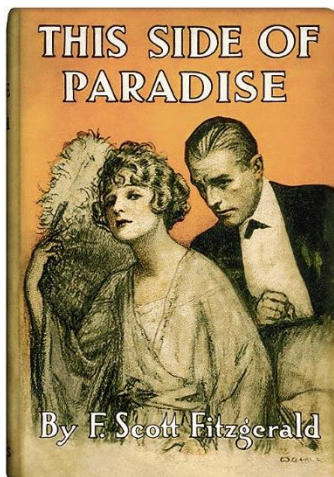
F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

(1896-1940)

" Literature does not exist in a vacuum. Writers as such have a definite social function exactly proportional to their ability as writers. This is their main use."

Compiled by:

Veeraganesh B<::> Reg No. 233313111001



This Side of Paradise

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/paradise/summary/>

This Side of Paradise chronicles the life of Amory Blaine from his childhood up through his early twenties. Born the son of a wealthy and sophisticated woman, Beatrice, Amory travels the country with his mother until he attends the fictitious St. Regis prep school in New England. He is handsome, quite intelligent though lazy in his schoolwork, and he earns admission to Princeton. Though initially concerned with being a success on campus, after failing a class he gives himself over to idleness; he prefers to learn through reading and discussions with friends than through his classes.

Toward the end of his college career, America enters World War I and Amory dutifully enlists, forgoing his degree. During his time overseas, Beatrice passes away. Upon his return to America, Amory meets the young debutante Rosalind Connage, the sister of his college friend Alec. The two fall deeply in love, but because of his family's poor investments, Amory has little money, and Rosalind does not wish to marry into poverty. Despite Amory's best efforts to earn money at an advertising agency, Rosalind breaks off their engagement in order to marry a wealthier man, devastating Amory. He goes on a three-week drinking binge, which is finally terminated by the advent of the Prohibition.

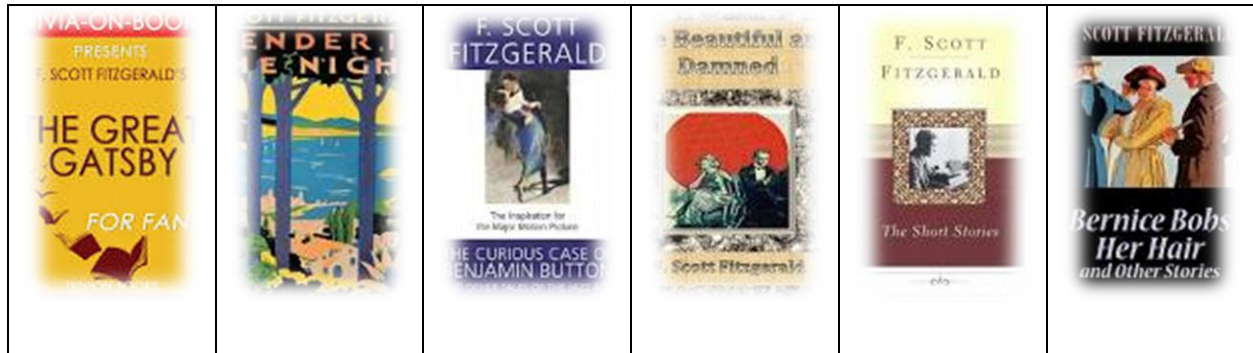
His Books [Web Links]

01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/420>

02] <https://www.britannica.com/summary/F-Scott-Fitzgeralds-Important-Works>

03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/3190.F_Scott_Fitzgerald

- 04] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._Scott_Fitzgerald_bibliography
 05] <https://fivebooks.com/people/f-scott-fitzgerald/>
 06] <https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/classics/f-scott-fitzgerald-books>



Film Adaptations

F. Scott Fitzgerald's novels and stories have inspired numerous film adaptations, most notably multiple versions of The Great Gatsby (1974, 2013) and The Last Tycoon (1976). His work explores themes of wealth, love, and the American Dream in the Jazz Age, often featuring iconic characters and glamorous, tragic settings.

Key Adaptations of Fitzgerald's Work

- **The Great Gatsby:** Versions include 1926 (silent), 1949, 1974 (with Robert Redford), and 2013 (directed by Baz Luhrmann with Leonardo DiCaprio).
- **The Last Tycoon:** 1976 film directed by Elia Kazan, starring Robert De Niro.
- **Tender Is the Night:** 1962 film starring Jennifer Jones and Jason Robards.
- **The Beautiful and Damned:** 1922 silent film and later adaptations.
- **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** 2008 film based on a short story.
- **The Last Time I Saw Paris (1954):** Based on the short story "Babylon Revisited".
- **Bernice Bobs Her Hair (1976):** A well-regarded TV movie adaptation.

Films About F. Scott Fitzgerald

- **Beloved Infidel (1959):** Stars Gregory Peck as Fitzgerald and Deborah Kerr as Sheilah Graham.
- **Last Call (2002):** TV movie focusing on his final years.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald: Winter Dreams (2001):** A documentary from PBS *American Masters*.

Screenwriting Credits

- **Three Comrades (1938):** The only screen story with a direct screenplay credit for Fitzgerald.
- **Winter Carnival (1939):** Co-written by Fitzgerald.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Bibliography

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._Scott_Fitzgerald_bibliography

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (September 24, 1896 - December 21, 1940) was an American author of novels and short stories, whose works are the paradigmatic writings of the Jazz Age. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Fitzgerald is considered a member of the "Lost Generation" of the 1920s. He finished four novels: *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby* (his most famous), and *Tender Is the Night*. A fifth, unfinished novel, *The Last Tycoon*, was published posthumously. Fitzgerald also wrote many short stories that treat themes of youth and promise along with age and despair.

The Curious Life of F. Scott Fitzgerald

<https://writersinspire.org/content/curious-life-f-scott-fitzgerald>

Kate O'Connor

Date Published: 16 August 2012

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born on 24 September 1896 to a salesman father and an Irish-Catholic mother who was the heir to a successful Minnesota grocery store. The F. Scott of F. Scott Fitzgerald stands for Francis Scott; he was named for his distant cousin, the writer of the poem that became the lyrics to American national anthem. Until 1908 the family moved throughout upstate New York, but when his father lost his job the Fitzgeralds moved to St. Paul, Minnesota.

<https://fscottfitzgeraldsociety.org/>



F. SCOTT FITZGERALD SOCIETY

Welcome to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, an international forum for the promotion, understanding and enjoyment of the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald. The purpose of this website is to promote study of the life and work of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Here you'll find all the information you need on joining the society, upcoming conferences and publications, outreach efforts to promote Fitzgerald to general audiences, and materials and networking opportunities available to anyone and everyone interested in the author of *The Great Gatsby*, *Tender Is the Night*, and many other compelling works of literature.

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F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Composite Biography:

Book Launch and Conversation with Editors

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tLN_uTxygs [1:38:55]

Quotable QUOTES

- ❖ The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.
- ❖ You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say.
- ❖ To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens.
- ❖ <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/f-scott-fitzgerald-quotes>
- ❖ https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/3190.F_Scott_Fitzgerald
- ❖ https://www.azquotes.com/author/4875-F_Scott_Fitzgerald

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Some Videos

01] F. Scott Fitzgerald

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_9j4fgRn2s [1:14:40]

F. Scott Fitzgerald is best known for his four completed novels depicting the flashiness and excess of the Jazz Age, a term he popularized in his short story collection "Tales of the Jazz Age." In his brief 44 years, he not only produced four novels, but four story collections, and a total of 164 short stories published in some of the leading magazines of the day. Although he achieved popular success and fortune in the 1920s, Fitzgerald didn't receive full critical acclaim until after his death in 1940. He is now regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century.

02] F. Scott Fitzgerald documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEuq5H0ucVU> [29:34]

03] F. Scott Fitzgerald - A Troubled Life Cut Short | Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOfGtqWguk4> [41:29]

Now regarded as one of the most important voices in American literature, F Scott Fitzgerald died in obscurity, ignored and largely forgotten. The glitzy lifestyle of endless parties, cocktails and everyone wanting to be his friend a distant memory. In the nineteen twenties, he and his high-spirited wife Zelda, were the living embodiments of the Jazz Age – handsome, successful and buzzing with energy – but like the Jazz Age their lifestyle was unsustainable.

In this video, I explore the brilliant but all too short life of F Scott Fitzgerald. A burdened life, fatally intertwined with that of the artistic but troubled Zelda. I reveal how the lives of two of America's brightest young things slowly unraveled, with Zelda in and out of mental hospitals and Scott drowning his sorrows with alcohol.

04] The Many Ways F. Scott Fitzgerald Made an Absolute Fool of Himself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lhUMjgyOgU> [31:10]

F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of the most well-known authors of all time, but while he was alive he was more well known for being a hot mess. Come learn with me about the ways Scott Fitzgerald made a fool of himself.



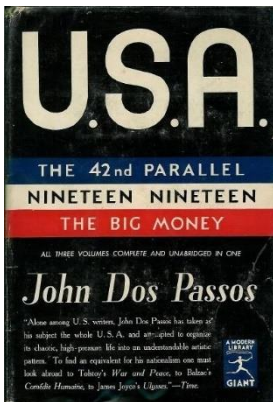
JOHN DOS PASSOS

(1896 - 1970)

"The creation of a world view is the work of a generation rather than of an individual, but we each of us, for better or for worse, add our brick to the edifice."

U.S.A. (trilogy)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S.A._\(trilogy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S.A._(trilogy))



The **U.S.A. trilogy** is a series of three novels by American writer John Dos Passos, comprising the novels *The 42nd Parallel* (1930), *Nineteen Nineteen* (1932) and *The Big Money* (1936). The books were first published together in a volume titled *U.S.A.* by Modern Library in 1937.

The trilogy employs an experimental technique, incorporating four narrative modes: fictional narratives telling the life stories of twelve characters, collages of newspaper clippings and song lyrics labeled "Newsreel", individually labeled short biographies of public figures of the time such as Woodrow Wilson and Henry Ford and fragments of autobiographical stream of consciousness writing labeled "Camera Eye". The trilogy covers the historical development of American society during the first three decades of the 20th century. In 1998, the US publisher Modern Library ranked *U.S.A.* 23rd on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

Dos Passos Prize

The John Dos Passos Prize is a literary award given annually by the Department of English and Modern Languages at Longwood University. The prize seeks to recognize "American creative writers who have produced a substantial body of significant publication that displays characteristics of John Dos Passos' writing: an intense and original exploration of specifically American themes, an experimental approach to form, and an interest in a wide range of human experiences."

John dos Passos Cultural Center

The John dos Passos Cultural Center, located in Ponta do Sol on the island of Madeira, is the municipality's main cultural facility, dedicated to literature and to the legacy of the Luso-descendant writer John dos Passos, as well as to the history of emigration. Through cultural programming and a Scientific Research Unit, the Centre promotes literary studies related to the author, while also housing a small museum with 19th-century domestic furnishings and photographs documenting the writer's visits to the birthplace of his paternal grandfather. It was officially inaugurated on 20 September 2004.

Key Aspects of his Legacy

John Dos Passos (1896-1970) remains a pivotal 20th-century American novelist and "chronicler" known for pioneering modernist, experimental techniques in works like *Manhattan Transfer* and the *U.S.A.* trilogy. His legacy is marked by a dramatic shift from radical leftist politics to conservatism, which affected his later reputation, yet he is recognized for capturing the „social fragmentation and materialistic, rise of America.

- **Literary Innovation & Style:** Dos Passos is credited with creating a "new" type of prose epic. He blended fiction with journalism, using "Newsreel" techniques, "Camera Eye" impressionistic sketches, and „biographical sketches. to create a panoramic view of American society.
- **The U.S.A. Trilogy:** His masterwork (*The 42nd Parallel*, 1919, *The Big Money*) is considered a definitive „social history of the US in the early 20th century. often cited for its critique of „wealth inequality and industrialization.
- **Lost Generation Voice:** As a „Lost Generation author, his early work, such as *Three Soldiers* (1921), established him as a significant „disillusioned voice following World War I, focusing on the individual's struggle against „bureaucracy and dehumanization.
- **Political Evolution & Controversies:** Initially a „radical socialist sympathetic to the Industrial Workers of the World, he shifted toward „conservative and libertarian views following his experiences during the Spanish Civil War, leading to „alienation from many contemporaries.
- **Enduring Relevance:** Despite a mid-century „decline in popularity among the, literary elite, his work is now praised for anticipating postmodern techniques and for its „clairvoyant, „critical, „analysis of mass media and, „American consumerism.

He was a prolific author of over 40 books, including novels, plays, essays, and poems, cementing his place as a „chronicler of the American scene,

Some Useful Web Links

- 01] <https://theamericanscholar.org/the-world-at-the-end-of-a-line/>
- 02] <https://www.loa.org/writers/241-john-dos-passos/>
- 03] <https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/entries/dos-passos-john-1896-1970/>
- 04] <https://www.johndospassos.com/blog/four-generations-of-dos-passos-writers>
- 05] <https://www.johndospassos.com/timeline>
- 06] <https://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/4202/the-art-of-fiction-no-44-john-dos-passos>
- 07] <https://oxfordre.com/literature/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-618>

John Dos Passos :<: Bibliography

<https://small.library.virginia.edu/collections/featured/john-dos-passos-collection/>



The Papers of John Dos Passos at the University of Virginia Library present a vivid chronicle of the author's activities, thoughts and literary skills as he analyzed, reported on and criticized the turbulent events of the 20th century. Dos Passos, identifying with the leftist radical sympathies of the post-World War I period, experimented in expressing these sentiments with innovative writing techniques in some of his most important and successful works: *One Man's Initiation* (1917), *Three Soldiers* (1921), *A Pushcart at the Curb* (1922), *Manhattan Transfer* (1925), the trilogy *USA* (*The 42nd Parallel*, 1930; *Nineteen Nineteen*, 1932; *The Big Money*, 1936), and *The Head and Heart of Thomas Jefferson* (1954).

Some Useful Videos

01] From the wasteland to the Arcadia: John Dos Passos' s Transcultural & Transliterary Journey to Spain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnZuJKTH9Ec> [1:07:39]

02] *One Man's Initiation--1917* by John Dos Passos read by Mark Leder | Full Audio Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZPbVH64N6c> [3:22:45]

03] *Mr. Wilson's War: From the Assassination of...* by John Dos Passos · Audiobook preview

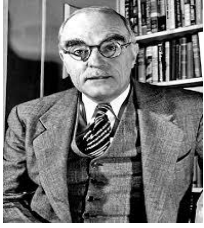
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HojOfdxrUVI> [2:20:28]

04] John Dos Passos - The Man, the Works, and the Portuguese Heritage with Bernardo de Vasconcelos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msOHidJVX-k> [1:11:47]

Assistant professor at the University of Madeira in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Bernardo de Vasconcelos, will speak upon the importance of John Dos Passos and his work, and the inherent and binding transatlantic connection. Currently on a mobility program as Coordinator of the John Dos Passos Cultural Center, Bernardo aims his efforts at raising awareness, as well as his goal to strengthen ties with all institutions, namely American, through the Center. In this hour-long talk, Bernardo de Vasconcelos will also shed light on Dos Passos's thoughts concerning his Portuguese heritage and the preparation of what was to become *The Portugal Story*. Bernardo holds a degree in Modern Languages and Literatures, a Master's in English Linguistics, a PhD in Applied Linguistics, and also completed an Executive MBA in International Business Management.

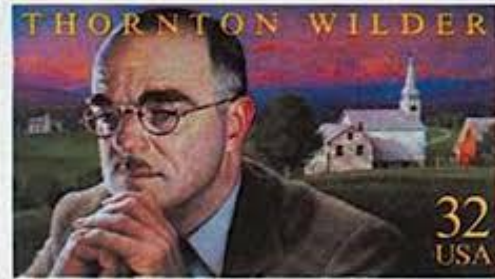
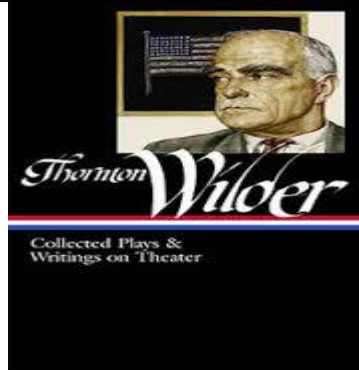
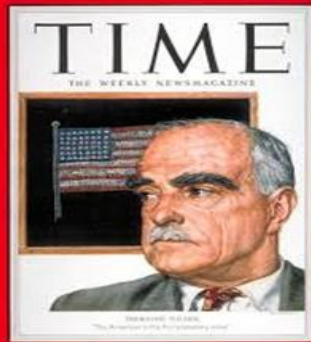
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THORNTON WILDER

(1897 - 1975)

"When you're safe at home you wish you were having an adventure; when you're having an adventure you wish you were safe at home."



Thornton Wilder Society

<https://www.twildersociety.org/>

The Thornton Wilder Society has the twofold purpose of supporting efforts which expand the literary legacy of Thornton Wilder and of encouraging projects which emphasize the timeless importance of literature and drama to world culture.

The Thornton Wilder Society appeals to anyone who has an interest in the life and works of Thornton Wilder. The Society is international in its scope, attracting Wilder fans, scholars, critics, educators and theatrical professionals and amateurs from all over the world. The Society, in short, is of interest to all who love Wilder, his work, and his belief in the importance of art as a sustaining influence in the world.

The Thornton Wilder Society celebrates and expands the legacy of Thornton Wilder through multiple fora. Penn State University Press publishes biannually the *Thornton Wilder Journal* containing scholarly articles, reviews of significant productions, pieces about Wilder's life, and other content of interest to Wilder scholars, theatre artists, educators, and fans.



<https://www.twildersociety.org/journal/>

The *Thornton Wilder Journal* welcomes articles on any aspect of Wilder Studies: analysis of the plays and novels, comparative studies featuring Wilder, explorations of and adaptations of Wilder's works in the United States and abroad, and research on Wilder's family and their creative and intellectual output. It also publishes reviews of books about Wilder and of professional productions or innovative non-professional productions.

Awards

Thornton Niven Wilder (April 17, 1897 - December 7, 1975) was an American playwright and novelist. He won three [Pulitzer Prizes](#), for the novel [The Bridge of San Luis Rey](#) and for the plays [Our Town](#) and [The Skin of Our Teeth](#), and a U.S. [National Book Award](#) for the novel [The Eighth Day](#).

Shadow of a Doubt

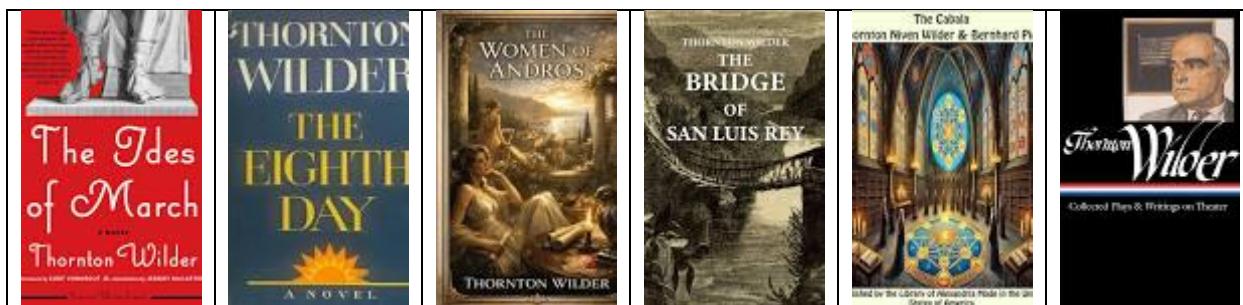
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shadow_of_a_Doubt



Shadow of a Doubt is a 1943 American [psychological thriller film noir](#) directed by [Alfred Hitchcock](#), and starring [Teresa Wright](#) and [Joseph Cotten](#). Written by [Thornton Wilder](#), [Sally Benson](#), and [Alma Reville](#), the film was nominated for an [Academy Award for Best Story](#) for Gordon McDonell.

The story follows Charlotte "Charlie" Newton and her family who live in very quiet [Santa Rosa, California](#). An unexpected visit by Charles Oakley, her charming and sophisticated Uncle Charlie, brings much excitement to the family and the small town. That excitement turns to fear as young Charlie slowly begins to suspect that her uncle may be concealing a dark secret.

In 1991, the film was selected for preservation in the United States [National Film Registry](#) by the [Library of Congress](#), being deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". Hitchcock's favorite of all his films, *Shadow of a Doubt* was also the one he enjoyed making the most.



Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/44061.Thornton_Wilder
- 02] <https://www.twildersociety.org/works/>
- 03] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/33173/thornton-wilder/>
- 04] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/thornton-wilder/200444/?srsltid=AfmBOoo6l8jmOHGhqZ4WZyzBRb7ehgUM84hSCQOuq54pbzFqvvreNDFX>
- 05] <https://www.loa.org/writers/287-thornton-wilder/>

Videos

- 01] Thornton Wilder: A Life | University Place
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUawi-6IfSQ> [56:19]
- 02] Thornton Wilder's World: His Writing & Themes. A Virtual Panel Discussion.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp-JJtrfVbs> [1:10:22]

Thornton Wilder (1897-1975), Hamden resident and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes, was a titan of 20th century American literature. His most famous play, *Our Town*, has been called "the finest American play ever written" and continues to awe audiences. Moderated by Ray Andrewsen, this free virtual panel discussion was offered in connection with Thornton Wilder's birthday on April 17 and in conjunction with the Thornton Wilder Writing Competition Award Ceremony on April 22. Panelists were Dr. Jackson R. Bryer, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Maryland, President of the Thornton Wilder Society; Marydell Merrill, Director, Hamden High School Mainstage Ensemble; and Walton Wilson, Professor in the Practice of Acting, David Geffen School of Drama, Yale University.

- 03] Shakespeare Hour Live Episode 52: Thornton Wilder
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upnWjDVoF_Y [1:00:08]
- 04] Book Launch: Thornton Wilder, Classical Reception, and American Literature
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo8rECWgelE> [1:00:03]
- 05] An Evening with Tappan Wilder -- Celebrating Thornton Wilder
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDffRQiIaaI> [1:47:08]

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HART CRANE

(1899-1932)

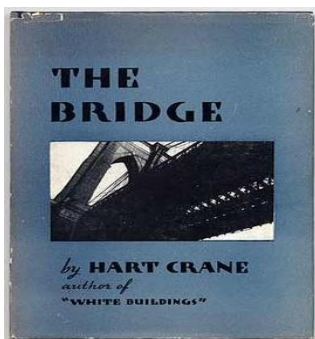
" And inasmuch as the bridge is a symbol of all such poetry as I am interested in writing it is my present fancy that a year from now I'll be more contented working in an office than ever before."

Compiled by:

Kanmani C S <::> Reg No. 253313111002

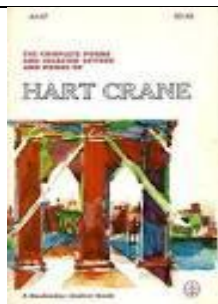
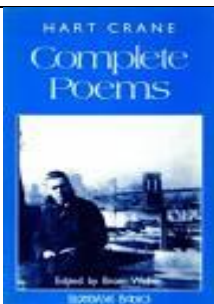
The Bridge (Poem)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bridge_\(poem\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bridge_(poem))



The Bridge, first published in 1930 by the [Black Sun Press](#), is [Hart Crane](#)'s first, and only, attempt at a [long poem](#). (Its primary status as either an [epic](#) or a series of [lyrical](#) poems remains contested; recent criticism tends to read it as a hybrid, perhaps indicative of a new genre, the "modernist epic.")

The Bridge was inspired by New York City's "poetry landmark", the [Brooklyn Bridge](#). Crane lived for some time at 110 Columbia Heights in [Brooklyn](#), where he had an excellent view of the bridge; only after *The Bridge* was finished did Crane learn that one of its key builders, [Washington Roebling](#), had once lived at the same address.



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/archives/cul-4079683>
- 02] <https://poets.org/poet/hart-crane>
- 03] <https://www.norton.co.uk/search/contributors?q=Hart+Crane>
- 04] <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/1966/01/20/hart-crane/>
- 05] <https://fordhampress.com/the-bridge-pb-9781531513481.html>
- 06] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/hart-crane/237206/?srsltid=AfmBOoqpOCCP6xD0ihCHTwcse4FGEF4yFnsK14dI_AAB7_V1mgPpMWZ3

Hart Crane: "Voyages"

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/68940/hart-crane-voyages>

Hart Crane's tour de force of homosexual love.

By Brian Reed

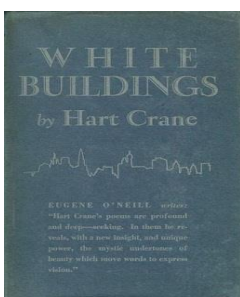
Originally Published: September 24, 2007

In 1923, Hart Crane (1899-1932) met a blond, blue-eyed Danish sailor named Emil Opffer. He fell crazily, blissfully in love. Like any wordsmith worth a red cent, he started writing a poem about it. And not just any poem, but a whole poem sequence, the most ambitious work that he had yet attempted. He faced two serious obstacles. First, it isn't easy to write a convincing love poem. You're up against such greats as Shakespeare and Byron; writers in the throes of young love generally churn out verse that sounds greeting-card vapid in comparison. Second, although Western poets from Theocritus to Whitman had celebrated male-on-male action, American society still wasn't fully prepared for a gay bard to burn that torch too brightly.

Crane responded by lighting a bonfire. "Voyages" grandly, passionately blazes with traditional love-lyric rhetoric. You get blushes and sighs, rejection and consummation, heaving breasts and Freudian symbols, the whole melodramatic Petrarchan caboodle.

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://cpl.org/ohio-author/hart-crane/>
- 02] <https://www.marintheatre.org/press-release-details/92/meet-the-poet-hart-crane>
- 03] <https://allpoetry.com/Harold-Hart-Crane>
- 04] <https://magazine.jhu.edu/2011/08/31/saving-hart-crane/>
- 05] <https://hrc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15878coll32>
- 06] <https://www.leonardcohenforum.com/viewtopic.php?t=5315>



White Buildings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Buildings

White Buildings was the first collection (1926) of poetry by Hart Crane, an American modernist poet, critical to both lyrical and language poetic traditions.

The book features well-known pieces like "For the Marriage of Faustus and Helen," the "Voyages" series, and some of his most famous lyrics including "My Grandmother's Love Letters" and "Chaplinesque." Harold Bloom has argued that this collection alone, if perhaps taken with his later lyric, 'The Broken Tower,' could have secured Crane's reputation as one of the best American poets of the 20th century.

ACCUSATIONS OF PLAGIARISM

In mid-December 1926, Crane visited William Murrell Fisher in Woodstock, a literary critic whom he first met via their mutual friend [Gorham Munson](#). There, Fisher shared with Crane multiple manuscripts of poems by [Samuel Greenberg](#), a little-known poet who had died in 1917. Writing to Gorham Munson on December 20, Crane wrote, "This poet, Grünberg, [which Fisher nursed until he died of consumption at a Jewish Hospital in New York was a Rimbaud in embryo ... Fisher has shown me an amazing amount of material, some of which I am copying and will show you when I get back." Morris Greenberg, Samuel's brother, had given five of Samuel's notebooks to Fisher so that they could be published. Crane copied forty-two poems from the notebooks, which he borrowed from Fisher for a period of less than a month. Many of Crane's poems consisted of lines and phrases taken from Greenberg's poems, always unattributed. Crane's poem "Emblems of Conduct", the third in *White Buildings*, consisted solely of rearranged lines from Greenberg's poems.

The plagiarism went unnoticed for decades until Marc Simon published *Samuel Greenberg, Hart Crane and the Lost Manuscripts* in 1978, detailing how Crane copied from Greenberg. Scholarly interpretation over the intent and morality of Hart Crane's actions varies. Writer and critic [Samuel R. Delany](#) argues Crane merely tried to draw attention to an unknown poet and wanted readers to experience for themselves the delight of realizing one of his influences without him telling them.

Videos

01] Selected Poems of Hart Crane (ENG)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8JaNYhpObo> [43:14]

02] Hart Crane

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ckoy_1bl8eI [39:20]

The early poetry of Hart Crane is presented and analyzed. Crane's self-characterization as a visionary, Romantic, and erotic poet, as well as the unique nature of his poetic project are considered as responses to Eliot's *Waste Land* and in particular the section "Death by Water." The poems "Legend," "Voyages," and "At Melville's Tomb" are read with particular attention to Crane's idiosyncratic use of language and neologism.

03] Hart Crane documentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3YfI_aXBWU [58:20]

Harold Hart Crane (July 21, 1899 – April 27, 1932) was an American poet. Provoked and inspired by T. S. Eliot, Crane wrote modernist poetry that was difficult, highly stylized, and ambitious in its scope. In his most ambitious work, *The Bridge*, Crane sought to write an epic poem, in the vein of *The Waste Land*, that expressed a more optimistic view of modern, urban culture than the one that he found in Eliot's work.

04] The Complete Poems of Hart Crane - thoughts and BOOK REVIEW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXNSJV1RXhI> [50:16]

Legacy

Mid-century American poets, such as [John Berryman](#) and [Robert Lowell](#), cited Crane as a significant influence. Both poets also wrote about Crane in their poetry. Berryman wrote him one of his famous [elegies](#) in *The Dream Songs*, and Lowell published his "Words for Hart Crane" in *Life Studies* (1959): "Who asks for me, the [Shelley](#) of my age, / must lay his heart out for my bed and board." Lowell thought that Crane was the most important American poet of the generation to come of age in the 1920s, stating that "[Crane] got out more than anybody else ... he somehow got [New York City](#); he was at the center of things in the way that no other poet was." Lowell also described Crane as being "less limited than any other poet of his generation."

[Tennessee Williams](#) said that he wanted to be "given back to the sea" at the "point most nearly determined as the point at which Hart Crane gave himself back". One of Williams's last plays, a "ghost play" titled *Steps Must Be Gentle*, explores Crane's relationship with his mother.

In a 1991 interview with Antonio Weiss of *The Paris Review*, the literary critic [Harold Bloom](#) talked about how Crane, along with [William Blake](#), initially sparked his interest in literature at a very young age:

I was preadolescent, ten or eleven years old. I still remember the extraordinary delight, the extraordinary force that Crane and Blake brought to me—in particular Blake's rhetoric in the longer poems—though I had no notion what they were about. I picked up a copy of *The Collected Poems of Hart Crane* in the Bronx Library. I still remember when I lit upon the page with the extraordinary trope, "O Thou steeled Cognizance whose leap commits / The agile precincts of the lark's return." I was just swept away by it, by the [Marlovian rhetoric](#). I still have the flavor of that book in me. Indeed it's the first book I ever owned. I begged my oldest sister to give it to me, and I still have the old black and gold edition she gave me for my birthday back in 1942 . . . I suppose the only poet of the twentieth century that I could secretly set above [Yeats](#) and [Stevens](#) would be Hart Crane.

Bloom also authored the introduction to the centennial edition of the *Complete Poems of Hart Crane*.

[Thomas Lux](#) has stated, "If the devil came to me and said 'Tom, you can be dead and Hart can be alive,' I'd take the deal in a heartbeat if the devil promised, when arisen, Hart would have to go straight into [A.A.](#)"

The literary critic [Adam Kirsch](#) has argued that "[Crane has been] a special case in the canon of American modernism, his reputation never quite as secure as that of [Eliot](#) or [Stevens](#)."

In 2011, the American poet [Gerald Stern](#) wrote an essay on Crane in which he stated, "Some, when they talk about Crane, emphasize his drinking, his chaotic life, his self-doubt, and the dangers of his sexual life, but he was able to manage these things, even though he died at 32, and create a poetry that was tender, attentive, wise, and radically original." At the conclusion of his essay, Stern writes, "Crane is always with me, and whatever I wrote, short poem or long, strange or unstrange—his voice, his tone, his sense of form, his respect for life, his love of the word, his vision have affected me. But I don't want, in any way, to exploit or appropriate this amazing poet whom I am, after all, so different from, he who may be, finally, the great poet, in English, of the twentieth century."

Beyond poetry, Crane's suicide inspired several works of art by noted artist [Jasper Johns](#), including "Periscope", "Land's End", and "Diver", as well as *A Symphony of Three Orchestras* by [Elliott Carter](#) (inspired by *The Bridge*) and the painting *Eight Bells' Folly, Memorial for Hart Crane* by [Marsden Hartley](#).



EARNEST HEMINGWAY

(1899-1961)

"The best people possess a feeling for beauty, the courage to take risks, the discipline to tell the truth, the capacity for sacrifice. Ironically, their virtues make them vulnerable; they are often wounded, sometimes destroyed."

Compiled by:

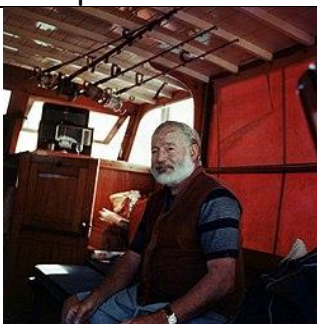
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Nobel Prize 1954

Ernest Hemingway was awarded the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature "for his mastery of the art of narrative, most recently demonstrated in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and for the influence that he has exerted on contemporary style". His concise, direct, and impactful prose profoundly shaped 20th-century literature.

- **Year:** 1954
- **Key Work Cited:** *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952)
- **Significance:** Recognized his mastery of narrative and his influence on modern writing, particularly for his "iceberg theory" style
- **Award Ceremony:** Hemingway did not attend the Nobel banquet in person, but sent a speech to be read.
- **Context:** He won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction the previous year, in 1953.

Hemingway's, who was a journalist and novelist, left a lasting impact with his, often described as "stripped-down," prose, which left details to the reader's interpretation.



Key aspects of Hemingway's Legacy

<https://www.ernesthemingwayofficial.com/the-legacy>

Ernest Hemingway's (1899-1961) legacy is defined by his revolutionary "Iceberg Theory" of sparse, direct prose that transformed 20th-century fiction, earning him the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. As a voice of the "Lost Generation," his themes of courage and loss in *The Sun Also Rises* and *The Old Man and the Sea* endure.

- **Literary Influence:** His economical, understated style, featuring profound underlying emotion with minimal description, redefined modern writing.
- **Cultural Myth:** Beyond his writing, he is an icon of "rugged masculinity," representing an adventurous, and often tumultuous lifestyle involving fishing, hunting, and bullfighting.
- **Key Works:** *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) remain cornerstones of American literature.
- **Personal Struggles:** His life, marked by intense experiences and struggles with mental health, serves as a poignant reminder of the human condition, often scrutinized by scholars for the contrast between his public persona and private vulnerabilities.
- **Enduring Brand:** Hemingway's name is synonymous with adventure and "old-school" sophistication, influencing everything from fashion to literature.

Hemingway's impact continues to be felt in both literature and popular culture, with his works, such as *A Moveable Feast* (a memoir of his Paris years), maintaining a dedicated readership.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40624915>

<https://www.stevepaulkc.com/blog/2017/8/11/discovering-hemingways-legacy-at-1729-grand>

Ernest Hemingway Bibliography

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway_bibliography

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was an American novelist, short-story writer, journalist, and sportsman. His economical and understated style—which he termed the iceberg theory—had a strong influence on 20th-century fiction. Many of his works are considered classics of American literature.

Hemingway produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and he was awarded the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. He published seven novels, six short-story collections, and two nonfiction works.

Three of his novels, four short-story collections, and three nonfiction works were published posthumously.

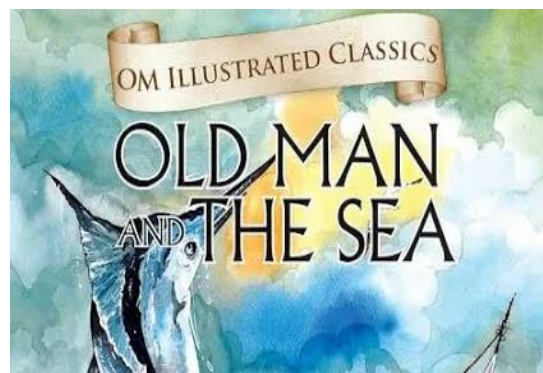


Web Links for BOOKS

- 01] <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/50533>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/1455.Ernest_Hemingway
- 03] <https://www.jfklibrary.org/hemingway/works/books>
- 04] <https://fivebooks.com/people/books-by-ernest-hemingway/>
- 05] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/ernest-hemingway/196569/?srsltid=AfmBOoroHWXxpSmsU3hRW6uQeIDp8W0V8ux95Dk4jSVHR4GzVGijJYJ9>

The Old Man and the Sea

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/oldman/summary/>



The Old Man and the Sea is the story of an epic struggle between an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life. For eighty-four days, Santiago, an aged Cuban fisherman, has set out to sea and returned empty-handed. So conspicuously unlucky is he that the parents of his young, devoted apprentice and friend, Manolin, have forced the boy to leave the old man in order to fish in a more prosperous boat. Nevertheless, the boy continues to care for the old man upon his return each night. He helps the old man tote his gear to his ramshackle hut, secures food for him, and discusses the latest developments in American baseball, especially the trials of the old man's hero, Joe DiMaggio. Santiago is confident that his unproductive streak will soon come to an end, and he resolves to sail out farther than usual the following day.

Movie Adaptations <::> RANKED

<https://collider.com/ernest-hemingway-movie-adaptations-ranked/>

The American Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner **Ernest Hemingway** is among the most celebrated authors who ever lived. His work, which was mostly produced between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, often offers audiences thoughtful meditations on solitude and the complications of life, making for some of the most intriguing novels ever written.

Thanks to his straightforward writing and approach to both novels and short stories, Hemingway has revolutionized modern literature, inspiring many writers even today. Given how many incredible and highly influential books the prolific Hemingway has worked on over the years, it only makes sense that a good chunk of those were adapted to the big screen at some point. As such, **we celebrate the artist's work by looking back and analyzing the best Ernest Hemingway movie adaptations**, from *The Sun Also Rises* to *To Have and Have Not*.

Videos

01] The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway (full movie)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuBPpuHA-c> [2:09:50]

02] Ernest Hemingway - The Later Years | Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ovlqo6yXrwo> [45:23]

Ernest Hemingway is almost as famous for his lifestyle as his writing. Mixing with a wealthy and glamorous set, he indulged his passions for hunting and fishing and was always launching himself into something new.

03] Ernest Hemingway | A Farewell to Arms (1932) Gary Cooper, Helen Hayes | Romance, War | Subtitled

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIZ-KBtFW4g> [1:28:53]

04] Love and Loss in the Shadow of War: A Farewell to Arms | Full Movie Based on Ernest Hemingway Novel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3bFxlqlSeE> [1:29:01]

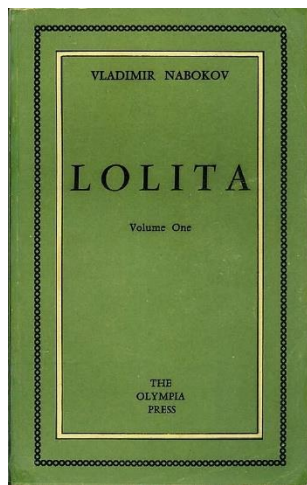
Set against the harrowing backdrop of World War I, A Farewell to Arms tells the story of Frederic Henry (Gary Cooper), an American ambulance driver for the Italian army, and Catherine Barkley (Helen Hayes), a British nurse. As the chaos of war surrounds them, the two are drawn together in a passionate and tragic love affair. Their bond is tested by the brutality of battle, personal sacrifices, and the desperate desire to escape the horrors of war for a chance at happiness. With fate and tragedy looming, their story unfolds as a poignant tale of love, loss, and the fragility of human connection amidst one of history's darkest chapters.



Vladimir Nabokov

(1899 - 1977)

"Imagination, the supreme delight of the immortal and the immature, should be limited. In order to enjoy life, we should not enjoy it too much."

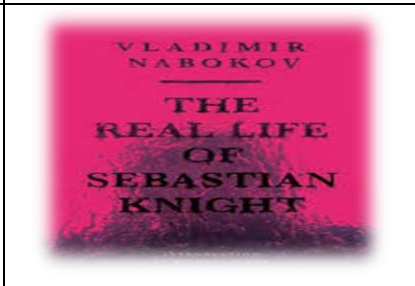
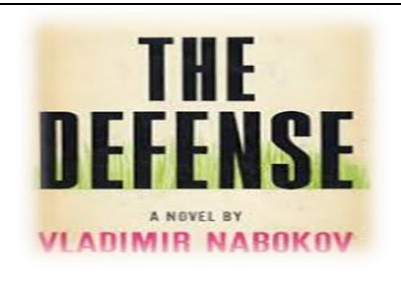
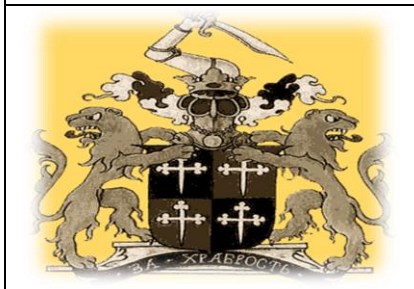


Lolita

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lolita>

Lolita is a 1955 novel written by Russian and American novelist [Vladimir Nabokov](#). The [protagonist](#) and narrator is a French literature professor who moves to [New England](#) and writes under the pseudonym Humbert Humbert. He details his obsession and victimization of a 12-year-old girl, Dolores Haze, whom he describes as a "nymphet". Humbert kidnaps and [sexually abuses](#) Dolores after becoming her stepfather. Privately, he calls her "Lolita", the Spanish [diminutive](#) for [Dolores](#). The novel was written in English, but fear of [censorship](#) in the U.S. (where Nabokov lived) and Britain led to it being first published in Paris, France, in 1955 by [Olympia Press](#).

The book has received critical acclaim regardless of the controversy it caused with the public. It has been included in many lists of best books, such as [Time's List of the 100 Best Novels](#), [Le Monde's 100 Books of the Century](#), [Bokklubben World Library](#), [Modern Library's 100 Best Novels](#), and [The Big Read](#). The novel has been twice adapted into film: [first in 1962](#) by [Stanley Kubrick](#), and [later in 1997](#) by [Adrian Lyne](#). It has also been [adapted several times](#) for the stage.



Key Aspects of Nabokov's Legacy

Vladimir Nabokov's legacy is defined by his profound influence on 20th-century literature through intricate, multilingual masterpieces like [*Lolita*](#) and [*Pale Fire*](#), characterized by unparalleled stylistic virtuosity, complex unreliable narrators, and themes of memory and obsession. Beyond literature, he left a lasting impact on entomology as a serious lepidopterist who pioneered butterfly classification.

- **Literary Masterpiece & Controversy:** *Lolita* (1955) cemented his fame, while his broader work—written in both Russian and English—is revered for its formal perfection, linguistic gamesmanship, and aesthetic brilliance.
- **Scientific Contribution:** As a research fellow at Harvard, Nabokov specialized in *Polyommatus* butterflies. His, often overlooked, taxonomic work on Latin American blues has been validated by modern DNA research.
- **Controlling Posterity:** Nabokov was obsessive about managing his literary legacy, supervising translations of his early works and curating his public persona in his later years in Switzerland.
- **Exile & Identity:** He remains a model for the expatriate artist, navigating Russian, European, and American cultural landscapes with stylistic grace.
- **Evolving Interpretation:** Critics have moved past early labels of him as a "frivolous" writer, now acknowledging the profound ethical and metaphysical depth in his work.

Some Useful Web Links

- 01] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/vladimir-nabokov>
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/21729/vladimir-nabokov/>
- 03] <https://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/4310/the-art-of-fiction-no-40-vladimir-nabokov>
- 04] <https://sites.bu.edu/russian-poetry/biography-vladimir-nabokov/>
- 05] <https://www.nytimes.com/topic/person/vladimir-nabokov>
- 06] <https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/volodya-in-paradise-on-vladimir-nabokov/>



Some Web Links for BOOKS

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/5152.Vladimir_Nabokov
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/21729/vladimir-nabokov/>
- 03] <https://www.loa.org/books/9-novels-1955-1962/>
- 04] <https://fivebooks.com/people/books-by-vladimir-nabokov/>
- 05] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/20163/vladimir-nabokov>

PEN/Nabokov Award

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEN/Nabokov_Award

The PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature, commonly referred to as the PEN/Nabokov Award, is awarded biennially by [PEN America](#) (formerly PEN American Center) to writers, principally novelists, "whose works evoke to some measure [Nabokov](#)'s brilliant versatility and commitment to literature as a search for the deepest truth and the highest pleasure— what Nabokov called the 'indescribable tingle of the spine'." The winner is awarded \$50,000 as of 2016. The award is financed by the [Vladimir Nabokov Foundation](#), founded by [Dmitri Nabokov](#). It has been called one of the most prestigious PEN prizes.

In 2016, after an eight year hiatus, the award was revived with changes. The prize money was increased from US\$20,000 to US\$50,000, and the name was changed from PEN/Nabokov Award for Fiction to PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. The criteria of the award was changed to those born or residing outside the United States, meaning previous winners Ozick, Roth, and Gass wouldn't have qualified for this version of the award.

The award is [one of many PEN awards](#) sponsored by [International PEN](#) affiliates in over [145 PEN centres](#) around the world. The PEN American Center awards have been characterized as being among the "major" American literary prizes.

Some Videos

01] Nabokov in Montreux: 1965 Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8OwyqvSh2g> [28:25]

02] Vladimir Nabokov and the Anatomy of Russian Exile | Dr. Nina Khrushcheva

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p50UH62VIs> [54:30]

03] Vladimir Nabokov: Selected Poems and Prose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzOt0bMmXjY> [57:43]

04] Great Books: Lolita, by Vladimir Nabokov

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdNfCRvtYaw> [40:37]

05] Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMEXFXaDibI> [34:23]

Building on Claire Dederer's defense of this incredible novel, Kimberly walks you through this new way to think about the misunderstood classic. She delves into why the prose is so insanely great and wraps up with a look at the genius sleight-of-hand that makes the book not only deeply engaging but also important.



LANGSTON HUGHES

(1902-1967)

" I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go."

Compiled by:

Shenbaga Nachiyar C <::> Reg No. 243313111004

Harlem Renaissance

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem_Renaissance



The **Harlem Renaissance** was an intellectual and cultural movement of African-American music, dance, art, fashion, literature, theater, politics, and scholarship centered in Harlem, Manhattan, New York City, spanning the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, it was known as the "New Negro Movement", named after The New Negro, a 1925 anthology edited by Alain Locke. The movement also included the new African-American cultural expressions across the urban areas in the Northeastern United States and the Midwestern United States affected by a renewed militancy in the general struggle for civil rights, combined with the Great Migration of African-American workers fleeing the racist conditions of the Jim Crow Deep South, as Harlem was the final destination of the largest number of those who migrated north.

Though geographically tied to Harlem, few of the associated visual artists lived in the area itself, while those who did (such as Aaron Douglas) had migrated elsewhere by the end of World War II. Many francophone black writers from African and Caribbean colonies who lived in Paris, France, were also influenced by the movement. Harlem had also seen significant Black immigration from British, French and other colonies in the Caribbean. The zenith of this "flowering of Negro literature", as James Weldon Johnson described the Harlem Renaissance, took place between approximately 1924—when Opportunity: A Journal of Negro Life hosted a party for black writers where many white publishers were in attendance—and 1929, the year of the stock-market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression. The Harlem Renaissance is considered to have been a creative crucible for African-American art-making and its institutionalisation within white-dominated museums and cultural institutions.

Key Aspects of Langston Hughes' Legacy

Langston Hughes (1902-1967) left a monumental legacy as a central figure of the Harlem Renaissance, pioneering "jazz poetry" and authenticating Black vernacular in literature. As a prolific poet, novelist, and playwright, he dedicated his career to celebrating the resilience and beauty of everyday Black life, challenging stereotypes despite facing criticism. Known as the "Poet Laureate of Harlem," his work remains a cornerstone of American literature, promoting social justice and racial equality.

- **Voice of the People:** Hughes deliberately focused on the lives of working-class Black Americans, avoiding the desire to cater to elite tastes. His writing aimed to empower and reflect the "great reservoir of physical and spiritual strength" within his community.
- **Literary Innovation (Jazz Poetry):** He revolutionized poetry by incorporating the rhythms, blues, and jazz music of Black culture into his verse.
- **Champion of Cultural Identity:** He defied pressures to conform to traditional, white-oriented artistic standards, insisting on portraying both the triumphs and the "low" aspects of life.
- **Profound Cultural Impact:** Hughes was the first Black American to earn a living solely through his writing and public lectures. His work continues to influence modern literature, social justice movements, and art.
- **Rebel Poet:** Known for his sharp, truthful, and politically engaged writing, Hughes used his art to address inequality and fight racial prejudice.

His enduring influence is maintained through his extensive, lasting body of work, including *The Weary Blues* (1926) and *Montage of a Dream Deferred* (1951).

<https://officiallangstonhughes.com/the-life-and-legacy-of-langston-hughes/#>

Honors and Awards

Living

- 1926: Hughes won the [Witter Bynner Undergraduate Poetry Prize](#).
- 1935: Hughes was awarded a [Guggenheim Fellowship](#), which allowed him to travel to Spain and Russia.
- 1941: Hughes was awarded a fellowship from the [Rosenwald Fund](#).
- 1943: Lincoln University awarded Hughes an honorary [Litt.D.](#)
- 1954: Hughes won the [Anisfield-Wolf Book Award](#).
- 1960: the [NAACP](#) awarded Hughes the [Spingarn Medal](#) for distinguished achievements by an African American.

- 1961: [National Institute of Arts and Letters](#).
- 1963: [Howard University](#) awarded Hughes an honorary [doctorate](#).
- 1964: [Western Reserve University](#) awarded Hughes an honorary Litt.D.

Memorial

Hughes's work continues to have a major readership in contemporary China.

- 1978: the first [Langston Hughes Medal](#) was awarded by the [City College of New York](#).
- 1979: [Langston Hughes Middle School](#) was created in [Reston, Virginia](#).
- 1981: New York City Landmark status was given to the Harlem home of Langston Hughes at 20 East 127th Street (📍[40°48'26"N 73°56'26"W](#)) by the [New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission](#) and 127th Street was renamed "Langston Hughes Place". The [Langston Hughes House](#) was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1982.
- 2000: [Langston Hughes Elementary](#) was opened in [Lawrence, Kansas](#).
- 2002: The United States Postal Service added the image of Langston Hughes to its Black Heritage series of postage stamps.
- 2002: scholar [Molefi Kete Asante](#) listed Langston Hughes on his list of [100 Greatest African Americans](#).
- 2009: [Langston Hughes High School](#) was created in [Fairburn, Georgia](#).
- 2012: inducted into the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame.
- 2015: [Google Doodle](#) commemorated his 113th birthday.

Literary Archives

The [Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#) at [Yale University](#) holds the Langston Hughes papers (1862–1980) and the Langston Hughes collection (1924–1969) containing letters, manuscripts, personal items, photographs, clippings, artworks, and objects that document the life of Hughes. The Langston Hughes Memorial Library on the campus of [Lincoln University](#), as well as at the [James Weldon Johnson Collection](#) at Yale also hold archives of Hughes's work. The [Moorland–Spingarn Research Center](#) at Howard University includes materials acquired from his travels and contacts through the work of [Dorothy B. Porter](#).

Some Useful Web Links

- 01] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/langston-hughes>
- 02] <https://poets.org/poet/langston-hughes>
- 03] <https://www.nps.gov/people/langston-hughes.htm>
- 04] <https://case.edu/ech/articles/h/hughes-james-langston>
- 05] <https://vault.fbi.gov/langston-hughes>
- 06] <https://libguides.lincoln.edu/langston-hughes>
- 07] <https://poets.org/poem/let-america-be-america-again>



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- 01] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/13775/langston-hughes/>
- 02] <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/sep/28/where-to-start-with-langston-hughes>
- 03] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/285335/langston-hughes>
- 04] <https://officiallangstonhughes.com/books/>
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/langston-hughes/>
- 06] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/langston-hughes>
- 07] <https://www.oprah.com/oprahsbookclub/langston-hughes-poetry-best-new-books>

Some Videos

- 01] The Poetry of Langston Hughes (read aloud)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6Fek5PmA3k> [1:06:20]
- 02] Read A Book in One Day | Not Without Laughter By Langton Hughes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz2DgsGPnYM> [26:15]
- 03] Langston Hughes Reads Langston Hughes [1994] / full album
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG14NTT0zj4> [48:00]
- 04] Not Without Laughter By Langston Hughes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaLzLGvWZnA> [35:32]
- 05] Langston Hughes Was the First Black American Writer Who Achieved this Major Milestone
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOMvK23FYUO> [27:50]



ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER

(1902 - 1991)

" As long as people will shed the blood of innocent creatures
there can be no peace, no liberty, no harmony between people.
Slaughter and justice cannot dwell together.

Nobel Prize 1978

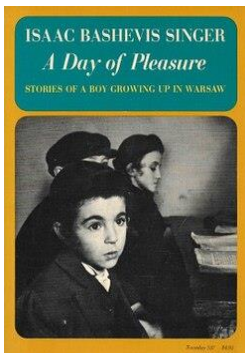
Isaac Bashevis Singer was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1978 "for his impassioned narrative art which, with roots in a Polish-Jewish cultural tradition, brings universal human conditions to life". He was the first Yiddish writer to receive this honor.

- **Significance:** Singer was recognized for his unique ability to use his Yiddish language and Eastern European Jewish background to explore universal themes.
- **Ceremony:** He delivered his famous Nobel lecture in December 1978.
- **Background:** Born in Poland in 1903/1904, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1935, bringing the rich, often occult-tinged storytelling of Polish Jews to a global audience.
- **Other Awards:** In addition to the Nobel, he won two U.S. National Book Awards.

His work is celebrated for blending wit, irony, and wisdom to describe both the old world and the immigrant experience.

A Day of Pleasure

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Day_of_Pleasure



A Day of Pleasure: Stories of a Boy Growing up in Warsaw is an autobiographical account of a childhood in Warsaw, Poland, written by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Published in 1969, it is a series of 19 short stories written by Singer depicting his childhood growing up in the Jewish area of Warsaw. In each chapter, a different story is detailed, with a focus on specific people Singer encountered in his neighborhood during this period. The stories detail the conditions and emotions associated with daily life in the city, such as poverty, confusion, and even excitement during the pre-war era in the 1900s. It was selected by the American Library Association as a nota.

Key Film Adaptations of Singer's Work

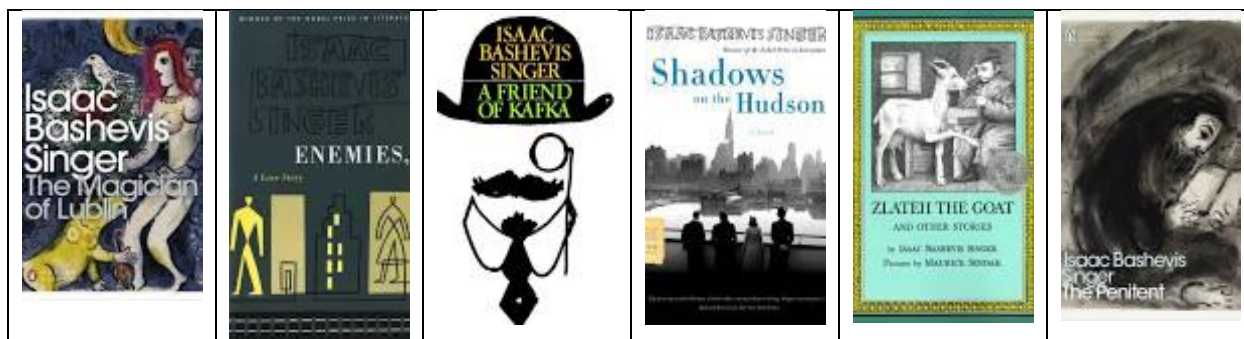
Several notable films have been adapted from the works of Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer, focusing on Yiddish culture, Jewish folklore, and complex human relationships. The most prominent adaptations include *Yentl* (1983), *Enemies, A Love Story* (1989), and *The Magician of Lublin* (1979).

- **Yentl (1983)**: Directed by and starring Barbra Streisand, based on the short story "Yentl the Yeshiva Boy".
- **Enemies, A Love Story (1989)**: Directed by Paul Mazursky, this acclaimed film deals with a Holocaust survivor in New York navigating relationships with three different women.
- **The Magician of Lublin (1979)**: Based on the novel regarding a talented but troubled performer in 19th-century Poland.
- **Love Comes Lately (2007)**: A film based on several of his short stories, directed by Jan Schütte.
- **The Cafeteria (1984/1974)**: Adapted from his story, notably produced as a television drama.
- **Zlateh the Goat (1966)**: An animated short film based on his beloved children's story.

Documentaries and Other Appearances

- **Isaac in America: A Journey with Isaac Bashevis Singer (1986)**: A documentary featuring the author himself.
- **The Muses of Bashevis Singer (2014)**: A documentary focusing on the women who translated his work.
- **Isaac Singer's Nightmare and Mrs. Pupko's Beard (1973)**: A short documentary.

Singer's work is celebrated for capturing pre-Holocaust Eastern European Jewish life, often blending secularism with mystical folklore.



- 01] <https://www.bashevissinger.com/books>
- 02] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/isaac-bashevis-singer/196587/?srsltid=AfmBOoNxxkFokcZS7GBbFtkpL0ufMvA1c0blqkS2QfXRKSIKIQdFVv3r>
- 03] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/to-read-isaac-bashevis-singer>
- 04] <https://www.loa.org/books/writer/111-isaac-bashevis-singer/>
- 05] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/10522/isaac-bashevis-singer>

01] An Autobiography of Yiddish Culture: Isaac Bashevis Singer (1985)

In this engaging stage reading hosted at 92NY, novelist and translator Isaac Bashevis Singer reads his most-loved short stories and sample chapters from his books, namely "The Day I Got Lost" and "The Missing Line." The reading ends with questions from the audience, where they ask him about subjects such as why he began to write in English, whether he feels like important nuances get lost in translation between Yiddish and English, and how he develops his stories and what sources they come from.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rMucRdQ7bY> [1:23:03]

Polish American writer and essayist Isaac Bashevis Singer reads two unpublished short stories. The first is a short memoir that was later published as part of Singer's autobiography, *Lost in New York* (1981). The second story, "Sabbath in Gehenna," is about a group of sinners trying to organize for better conditions in hell. "Sabbath in Gehenna" was eventually published as part of the short story collection, *The Death of Methuselah: and Other Stories* (1988). The readings are followed with questions from the audience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hg4vPWSp7Ao> [56:37]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RTpM_znjNA [1:04:24]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5CwTPvVkcC> [52:38]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIR_z5i8QD4 [1:20:23]





ZORA NEALE HURSTON

(1891-1960)

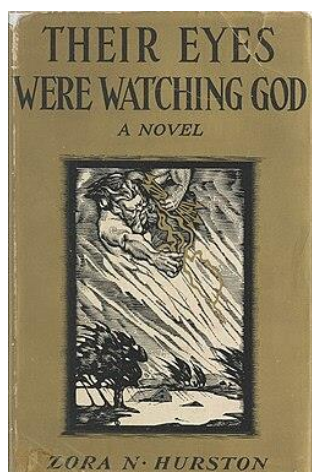
" "Now, women forget all those things they don't want to remember, and remember everything they don't want to forget. The dream is the truth."

Compiled by:

Shenbaga Nachiyar C <::> Reg No. 243313111004

Their Eyes Were Watching God

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Their_Eyes_Were_Watching_God



Their Eyes Were Watching God is a 1937 novel by American writer Zora Neale Hurston. It is considered a classic of the Harlem Renaissance and Hurston's best-known work. The novel explores protagonist Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny."

Hurston wrote *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in Haiti in the span of seven weeks. Hurston was self-described as "under internal pressure" when writing and wished she could "write it again". Though retrospectively she felt the work captured "all the tenderness of [her] passion".

Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel was initially poorly received by the African American community. After the publication of Alice Walker's article "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston" in *Ms.* magazine in 1975 and Robert Hemenway's publication of a biography of Hurston in 1980, Hurston was back in the literary realm. Since the late 20th century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* has been regarded as influential to both African-American literature and women's literature. *Time* magazine included the novel in its 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels published since 1923.

Key Aspects of Her Legacy

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was a pivotal Harlem Renaissance author, anthropologist, and folklorist whose legacy lies in documenting Southern Black culture and vernacular with pride. Best known for *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), her work was revived in the 1970s, establishing her as a foundational voice in American literature.

- **Literary Impact:** Hurston broke conventions by centering Black women's experiences and utilizing authentic Southern dialect, heavily influencing writers like Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, and Ralph Ellison.

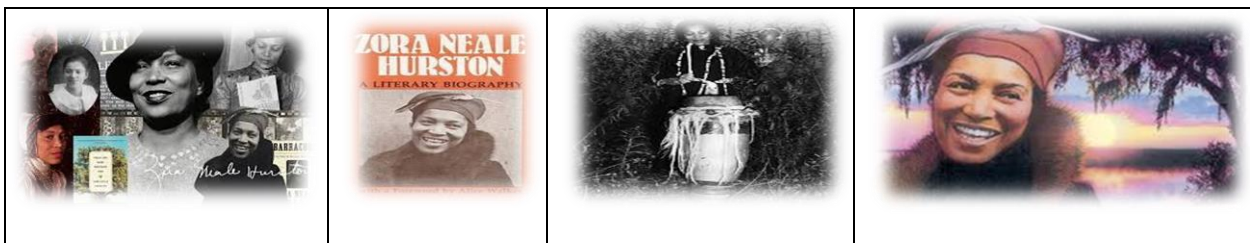
- **Anthropological Contributions:** As a student of Franz Boas, she was a pioneering anthropologist who documented African American folklore, hoodoo, and Caribbean Vodou with respect and rigor.
- **Cultural Preservation:** She highlighted the richness of rural Black life, particularly in her hometown of Eatonville, Florida, which she often used as a setting.
- **Revival and Recognition:** After dying in obscurity and poverty, interest in her work was rekindled by [Alice Walker's 1975 essay "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston."](#) She was inducted into the [New York Writers Hall of Fame in 2010](#).
- **Enduring Icon:** Today, she is celebrated as a "genius of the South" and a pioneer who merged ethnography with fiction to preserve Black history.

Autobiography

Dust Tracks on a Road (1942) is the candid, witty, and poignant autobiography of acclaimed author, anthropologist, and Harlem Renaissance figure [Zora Neale Hurston](#). It chronicles her journey from childhood in Eatonville, Florida—the first incorporated Black town in the U.S.—through her education, travels, and literary success, showcasing her resilience and unique voice.

- **Publication:** First published in 1942.
- **Content:** Covers her early life, her education at Howard University, her work as an anthropologist studying folklore, and her career as a writer in New York.
- **Style:** Known for its imaginative, bold, and humorous tone, often written in the vernacular of the rural South.
- **Themes:** Explores her rise from poverty, her independent spirit, and her experiences as a Black woman intellectual in the early 20th century.
- **Editions:** Often features a foreword by Maya Angelou or an afterword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr..

The memoir is considered a "rich and winning book" that provides a deep look into the life of a seminal figure in American literature.



Movies / Films

Zora Neale Hurston was a pioneering anthropologist and filmmaker who directed several ethnographic films documenting African American life in the rural South during the late 1920s and 1940s. Her extant, restored footage includes recordings of children's games, baptisms, and daily life in Florida and South Carolina, primarily housed at the Library of Congress.

Key Ethnographic Films (Directed by Hurston)

- **Fieldwork Footage (1928):** Includes recordings of a "baseball crowd," children dancing/playing, and a man with an axe.
- **Ethnographic Films (1929):** Features baptism scenes and children's games in Miami.
- **Commandment Keeper Church, Beaufort South Carolina (1940):** A documentary short capturing religious services.
- **Kossula: Last of the Takkoi Slaves (1928):** Footage related to her research on the last survivor of the illegal slave ship *Clotilda*.

Documentaries about Her Life

- **Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space (2023):** A PBS American Experience documentary exploring her life as an author and anthropologist.
- **Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun (2008):** An American Masters documentary.

While she did not direct mainstream narrative films, her work in the 1920s-40s was vital for preserving folklore, which has informed later adaptations of her literary work, such as the 2005 film *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.



Web Links for BOOKS

- 01] <https://www.zoranealehurston.com/books/>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15151.Zora_Neale_Hurston
- 03] <https://www.harpercollins.com/pages/zoranealehurstonbooks-allbooks>
- 04] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/zora-neale-hurston/>
- 05] <https://www.virago.co.uk/virago-news/2025/06/09/where-to-start-with-zora-neale-hurston/>

Quotable QUOTES

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was an influential author and anthropologist known for her sharp wit, folkloric focus, and advocacy of Black female autonomy. Famous for [Their Eyes Were Watching God](#), her quotes often celebrate individuality, strength, and resilience, famously stating, "I am not tragically colored" and "No, I do not weep at the world—I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife".

Famous Quotes on Life and Self-Worth

- "I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all."
- "No, I do not weep at the world—I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife."
- "I have the nerve to walk my own way, however hard, in my search for reality, rather than climb upon the rattling wagon of wishful illusions."
- "You don't live but once and you might as well be as happy as possible on this one trip on earth."
- "All my skinfolk ain't kinfolk."

On Love and Friendship

- "Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place."
- "It seems to me that trying to live without friends is like milking a bear to get cream for your morning coffee. It is a whole lot of trouble, and then not worth much after you get it."

On Knowledge and Experience

- "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."
- "Learning without wisdom is a load of books on a donkey's back."
- "Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to 'jump at de sun.' We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground."

From *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

- "There are years that ask questions and years that answer."
- "Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board."
- "Now, women forget all those things they don't want to remember, and remember everything they don't want to forget. The dream is the truth."

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/zora-neale-hurston-quotes>

<https://wist.info/author/hurston-zora-neale/>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/15151.Zora_Neale_Hurston



LILLIAN HELLMAN

(1905 - 1984)

"It's a sad day when you find out that it's not accident or time or fortune, but just yourself that kept things from you."

Legacy

Lillian Hellman (1905-1984) left a complex legacy as a pioneering American playwright, screenwriter, and memoirist known for socially conscious dramas like *The Children's Hour* and *The Little Foxes*. She challenged gender norms in theater, fiercely opposed fascism, and stood against McCarthyism, though her reputation was later marred by controversies regarding the veracity of her memoirs.

Key Aspects of Her Legacy:

- **Literary & Dramatic Impact:** Hellman is celebrated for breaking gender barriers as a successful female playwright in a male-dominated industry. Her works often focused on moral dilemmas, greed, and anti-fascist themes.
- **Political Activism:** A prominent public intellectual, she helped found the [Screen Writers' Guild](#) (1935) and the [League of American Writers](#). She was a vocal critic of fascism and was blacklisted in Hollywood during the McCarthy era for her left-wing, communist-affiliated views.
- **Controversy and Memoirs:** While her memoirs (*An Unfinished Woman*, *Pentimento*, *Scoundrel Time*) were bestsellers, they triggered significant controversy regarding accuracy, with critics arguing she invented or exaggerated events.
- **Symbol of Resilience:** Despite public feuds and political, she remained a bold, albeit polarizing, figure in American letters until her death in 1984.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

01] Lillian Hellman—Renaissance Woman and Hell-Raiser

<https://www.scr.org/scr-blog/posts/lillian-hellman-renaissance-woman-and-hell-raiser/>

02] Lillian Hellman and Her Legacy in Playwriting

<https://gradesfixer.com/free-essay-examples/lillian-hellman-and-her-legacy-in-playwriting/>

03] Books by Lillian Hellman

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/66241.Lillian_Hellman

04] American playwright

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lillian-Hellman>



Toys in the Attic (play)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toys_in_the_Attic_\(play\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toys_in_the_Attic_(play))

Set in New Orleans following the Great Depression, the play focuses on the Berniers sisters, two middle-aged spinsters who have sacrificed their own ambitions to look after their ne'er-do-well younger brother Julian, whose grandiose dreams repeatedly lead to financial disasters. When he unexpectedly returns home accompanied by his emotionally unstable, childlike young bride Lily, her aloof, aristocratic mother Albertine, and an unexplained large sum of money, Carrie and Anna suddenly find that the position of power they have always held has become unbalanced, leaving their lives in chaos.

Films / Movies

Lillian Hellman (1905-1984) was a renowned American playwright and screenwriter known for intense dramas tackling social issues, power, and morality. Major films she wrote or adapted include *The Little Foxes* (1941), *These Three* (1936), *Watch on the Rhine* (1943), *Dead End* (1937), and *The Children's Hour* (1961), many featuring strong female leads.

Key Screenplays and Adaptations

- [The Little Foxes](#) (1941): Adapted from her own play, starring Bette Davis.
- [These Three](#) (1936): Hellman adapted her own play *The Children's Hour*, modified for the Production Code.
- [The Children's Hour](#) (1961): A later, more direct adaptation of her 1934 play.
- [Watch on the Rhine](#) (1943): Screenplay based on her anti-fascist play.
- [Dead End](#) (1937): Screenplay based on the Sidney Kingsley play.
- [The Searching Wind](#) (1946): Based on her play about American diplomacy.
- [The Chase](#) (1966): Screenplay for the Arthur Penn film.
- [The North Star](#) (1943): Also known as *Armored Attack!*.
- [The Dark Angel](#) (1935): Early co-scripted screenplay.

- [Julia](#) (1977): While not written by her, the film was based on a chapter in her memoir *Pentimento*.

Key Playwright Credits (Adapted to Film)

- [Another Part of the Forest](#) (1948): Prequel to *The Little Foxes*.
- [Toys in the Attic](#) (1963): Based on her 1960 play.
- [The Lark](#) (1957): Adapted from Jean Anouilh.

Hellman's work was frequently associated with director William Wyler, who directed *These Three*, *Dead End*, and *The Little Foxes*.

AWARDS

- 01] New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play – 1960, 1941
- 02] National Book Award for Arts and Letters (Nonfiction) – 1970
- 03] Institutions that awarded Hellman honorary degrees include Brandeis University (1955), Wheaton College (1960), Mt. Holyoke College (1966), Smith College (1974), Yale University (1974), and Columbia University (1976).





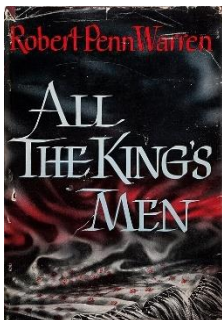
ROBERT PENN WARREN

(1905 - 1989)

"I think the greatest curse of American society has been the idea of an easy millennialism -- that some new drug, or the next election or the latest in social engineering will solve everything."

Awards & Honours

- Pulitzer Prize for Poetry 1979, 1958
Now and Then, Promises: Poems, 1954-1956
- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1947
All the King's Men
- National Book Award for Poetry 1958
Promises: Poems, 1954-1956
- Bollingen Prize 1967
- Robert Frost Medal 1985
- MacArthur Fellowship 1981
Poetry
- Jefferson Lecture 1974
- St. Louis Literary Award 1977
- American Academy of Arts and Letters



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All the King%27s Men](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_the_King%27s_Men)

All the King's Men is a 1946 novel by [Robert Penn Warren](#). The novel tells the story of charismatic [populist](#) governor Willie Stark and his political machinations in the Depression-era [Deep South](#). It was inspired by the real-life story of U.S. Senator and Louisiana Governor [Huey P. Long](#), who was [assassinated](#) in 1935. Its title is drawn from the nursery rhyme "[Humpty Dumpty](#)"



Theatrical release poster

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All the King%27s Men \(1949 film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_the_King%27s_Men_(1949_film))



Theatrical release poster

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All the King%27s Men \(2006 film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_the_King%27s_Men_(2006_film))

The Legacy of ROBERT PENN WARREN

- 01] <https://www.robertpennwarren.com/Legacy%20of%20RPW.html>
- 02] <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-legacy-of-robert-penn-warren-david-madden/1013583477>
- 03] <https://lsupress.org/9780807125922/the-legacy-of-robert-penn-warren/>

His Books

Robert Penn Warren (1905–1989) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, poet, and literary critic, best known for the 1946 masterpiece [All the King's Men](#). As the only person to win Pulitzers for both fiction and poetry, his most famous works include the novels [World Enough and Time](#) and [Band of Angels](#), and poetry collections *Promises* and *Now and Then*.

Famous Novels

- **All the King's Men (1946):** A fictionalized account of Louisiana politician Huey Long's rise and fall, winning the 1947 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.
- [Night Rider](#) (1939): His debut novel focusing on the tobacco the tobacco industry conflict in Kentucky.
- [At Heaven's Gate](#) (1943): A novel set in the South exploring corruption and financial power.
- **World Enough and Time (1950):** A romantic historical novel.
- [Band of Angels](#) (1955): Explores themes of slavery and identity.
- [The Cave](#) (1959): A novel centered on a search-and-rescue mission.

Notable Poetry

- [Promises: Poems, 1954–1956](#) (1957): Won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

- [Now and Then: Poems, 1976–1978](#) (1978): Won his second Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.
- [Brother to Dragons: A Tale in Verse and Voices](#) (1953): A book-length narrative poem.
- [Audubon: A Vision](#) (1969): A long, acclaimed poem.

Other Significant Works

- [Understanding Poetry](#) (1938): A highly influential textbook co-authored with Cleanth Brooks.
- [Blackberry Winter](#): A critically acclaimed short story.
- [Segregation: The Inner Conflict in the South](#) (1956): An essay regarding civil rights.

Warren was also named the first U.S. Poet Laureate in 1986.

01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/3736.Robert_Penn_Warren

02] <https://www.ndbooks.com/author/robert-warren/>

03] <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/11/resources/1638>

04] <https://guides.loc.gov/poet-laureate-robert-penn-warren/selected-bibliography>

Videos

01] Robert Penn Warren: A Vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTj4o0ID82o> [1:05:52]

02] All the King's Men: A Story of Ambition, Corruption & Greed in Politics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cywC28NVvjK> [51:38]

All the King's Men is a novel by Robert Penn Warren first published in 1946. The story portrays the dramatic and theatrical political rise and governorship of Willie Stark, a cynical, socially liberal socialist in the American South during the 1930s. The novel is narrated by Jack Burden, a political reporter who comes to work as Governor Stark's right-hand man. The trajectory of Stark's career is interwoven with Jack Burden's life story and philosophical reflections: "the story of Willie Stark and the story of Jack Burden are, in one sense, one story."

03] Robert Penn Warner's All the King's Men (CH_01)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1_Y5PVd2wo [25:43]

04] Poem of the Week: "Old-Time Childhood in Kentucky" by Robert Penn Warren

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSh_sp8wqfI [25:17]

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CLIFFORD ODETS

(1906 -1963)

" It seems to happen sudden—a fighter gets good. He gets easy and graceful. He learns how to save himself—no energy wasted... he slips and slides— he travels with the punch. . . . Oh, sure, I like the way you're shaping up."

Legacy of Clifford Odets

Clifford Odets (1906-1963) left a lasting legacy as the premier American playwright of the 1930s social protest movement, championing the working class with raw, poetic realism. His work with the Group Theatre, particularly *Waiting for Lefty* and *Awake and Sing!*, defined the era's conscience and influenced generations of writers, including Arthur Miller and David Mamet.

Key Aspects of Odets' Legacy:

- **Voice of the Depression:** Known for his socially conscious drama, Odets captured the anxieties, labor struggles, and economic hardships of the 1930s.
- **"Waiting for Lefty" & Artistic Style:** His 1935 hit *Waiting for Lefty* became an international sensation, utilizing intense, realistic dialogue to spark immediate social awareness.
- **The Group Theatre Influence:** As a founding member, he helped shape American acting and theater, blending political conviction with intimate family drama.
- **Bridge to Hollywood:** He transitioned into a successful, yet tumultuous, career as a screenwriter (e.g., *Sweet Smell of Success*), illustrating the 1940s-50s conflict between artistic integrity and financial success.
- **Controversial Later Years:** His legacy was complex, marked by his voluntary testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in 1952, a decision that damaged his standing among former peers.
- **Lasting Impact:** Despite the decline in his theatrical prominence in the 1950s, he is recognized for bridging the gap between social realism and modern American theater.

Odets' work remains highly regarded for its passionate portrayal of human struggle and its enduring relevance in addressing social injustice.

Films / Movies

Clifford Odets (1906-1963) was a prominent American playwright and screenwriter known for his socially conscious, Depression-era dramas and, later, his work in Hollywood as a screenwriter and director.

Here are the key movies written, directed, or based on the works of Clifford Odets:

Films Written/Screenplays by Odets

- ***The General Died at Dawn (1936)***: His first major screenwriting credit, a war drama.
- ***None but the Lonely Heart (1944)***: Written and directed by Odets, starring Cary Grant.
- ***Deadline at Dawn (1946)***: A film noir.
- ***Humoresque (1946)***: A romantic melodrama starring Joan Crawford and John Garfield.
- ***Sweet Smell of Success (1957)***: A highly acclaimed film noir starring Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis.
- ***The Story on Page One (1959)***: Written and directed by Odets, a courtroom drama.
- ***Wild in the Country (1961)***: A musical-drama starring Elvis Presley.

Films Directed by Odets

- ***None but the Lonely Heart (1944)***
- ***The Story on Page One (1959)***

Films Based on Odets' Plays

- ***Golden Boy (1939)***
- ***Clash by Night (1952)***: Starring Barbara Stanwyck and Marilyn Monroe
- ***The Country Girl (1954)***: Starring Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly, which won Academy Awards for writing and acting
- ***The Big Knife (1955)***: A critique of Hollywood

Uncredited Contributions

Odets was known for contributing to various screenplays, including:

- ***Notorious (1946)*** (dialogue for love scenes)
- ***Bigger Than Life (1956)***
- ***Rhapsody in Blue (1945)***

Note: In the 1991 film **Barton Fink**, the main character is loosely based on Clifford Odets' experiences as a playwright transitioning to Hollywood in the 1930s.



Web Liinks for Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/12725.Clifford_Odets
- 02] <https://archives.nypl.org/the/21250>
- 03] <https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/title/plays-of-clifford-odets/author/clifford-odets/>
- 04] <https://archive.org/details/dli.ernet.212821>

Videos

- 01] American Playwright Clifford Odets
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g37eDwVsIcA> [28:00]
- 02] ROCKET TO THE MOON by Clifford Odets
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kagq-OWkU3A> [1:50:10]
- 03] Waiting for Lefty by Clifford Odets
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9P70avqM9Q> [29:30]
- 04] PARADISE LOST by Clifford Odets, directed by John Grabowski (1991) at The Acting Studio - New York
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHllxPhD7nA> [2:07:53]

PARADISE LOST by Clifford Odets, directed by John Grabowski and presented by Chelsea Repertory Company in 1991 in Theatre 4A. This was a graduation project of students in the Acting Conservatory Program at The Acting Studio, Inc. located in 1991 at 29 E 19th St. New York.

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RICHARD WRIGHT

(1908 -1960)

" They hate because they fear, and they fear because they feel that the deepest feelings of their lives are being assaulted and outraged. And they do not know why; they are powerless pawns in a blind play of social forces."

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Richard Wright, the keyboardist, vocalist, and co-founder of Pink Floyd, was inducted into the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996**. He was a pivotal figure in the band's sound from their 1967 formation through 2008, contributing to their most famous albums and live performances.

- **Induction Year:** 1996.
- **Inducted As:** Member of Pink Floyd, alongside David Gilmour, Nick Mason, and Roger Waters.
- **Role:** Keyboardist and songwriter known for his unique, atmospheric, and often jazz-influenced sonic landscapes.
- **Significance:** Wright played a key role in the progressive and psychedelic sound of the band, with major contributions to *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *Wish You Were Here*.

Although briefly leaving the band during the recording of *The Final Cut*, Wright returned and remained a critical member until his death in 2008.

The Richard Wright Archives

<https://richardwright.net/>

Richard Wright was an English pianist, keyboardist and songwriter, best known for his career with Pink Floyd. Wright's richly textured keyboard layers were a vital ingredient and a distinctive characteristic of Pink Floyd's sound. Wright frequently sang background and occasionally lead vocals on stage and in the studio with Pink Floyd (most notably on the songs "Time", "Echoes", "Wearing the Inside Out", "Astronomy Domine" and "Matilda Mother").

Though not as prolific a songwriter as his bandmates Roger Waters and David Gilmour, he wrote significant parts of the music for classic albums such as *Meddle*, *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *Wish You Were Here*, as well as for Pink Floyd's final studio album *The Division Bell*.

All Richard Wright Songs + Medley

https://www.reddit.com/r/pinkfloyd/comments/188d8k7/all_richard_wright_songs_medley/ [1:33:26]

His Legacy

Richard Wright (1908-1960) left a profound legacy as a pioneering African American author who courageously exposed the brutal reality of American racism, segregation, and structural inequality. As a bestselling author of Native Son and Black Boy, he redefined protest literature, influencing generations of writers and civil rights advocates through his unflinching, psychologically deep, and often autobiographical narratives.

Key Aspects of Richard Wright's Legacy:

- **Literary Groundbreaker:** He was one of the first African American authors to achieve widespread, mainstream commercial success, with *Native Son* (1940) becoming a Book-of-the-Month Club selection.
- **Voice of Social Protest:** Wright's work confronted, with "passionate honesty," the psychological and social limitations of Jim Crow-era America, shining a light on racial violence, injustice, and systemic oppression.
- **Impactful Works:**
 - *Native Son* (1940): A landmark novel exploring how society drives a young Black man toward violence.
 - *Black Boy* (1945): A defining, best-selling autobiography detailing his childhood in the segregated South.
 - *The Man Who Lived Underground* (published posthumously/restored 2021): A significant, philosophical novel demonstrating his continued relevance to modern discussions on systemic abuse.
- **Mentorship and Influence:** Despite moving to France to escape American racism, he remained a key, albeit sometimes controversial, mentor to later literary figures like James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Gwendolyn Brooks.
- **Resurgent Interest:** In recent years, scholars and audiences have experienced a resurgence of interest in his work, reevaluating his later, more philosophical writing and restoring cut scenes from his earlier work to reflect his original vision.

Wright's work continues to be taught and studied as a foundational, albeit intense, examination of race in America.

His Major Works

Richard Wright (1908-1960) was a seminal American author known for his powerful, often shocking, literature addressing racial discrimination, poverty, and the African American experience. His most famous works, which established him as a major 20th-century writer, include novels, short stories, and autobiographical, nonfiction works.

Top Famous Works

- ***Native Son* (1940):** Often cited as his most famous work, this novel follows 20-year-old Bigger Thomas, a Black man living in extreme poverty on Chicago's South Side. It was the first book-of-the-month club selection by an African-American author, bringing Wright national fame.
- ***Black Boy* (1945):** A memoir of his early life in the South (Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee) and his eventual move to Chicago. It is a vivid, often harrowing account of his childhood, his struggles with racism, and his journey toward becoming a writer.
- ***Uncle Tom's Children* (1938):** A collection of four novellas that brought Wright his first major, widespread attention. The stories focus on the lives of Black people in the rural South, exploring their resistance to racism and oppression.

Other Major Works

- ***The Outsider* (1953):** A novel that marks Wright's foray into existentialism, focusing on an African-American character involved with the Communist Party in New York.
- ***12 Million Black Voices* (1941):** A "folk history" of the Negro in the United States, combining Wright's prose with photographs from the Farm Security Administration.
- ***The Man Who Lived Underground* (1945/2021):** Originally written as a novel in the 1940s, it was rejected and later published as a truncated story; the full, unexpurgated version was released in 2021 to critical acclaim.
- ***Eight Men* (1961):** A posthumously published collection of short stories, including "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" and "Big Black Good Man".
- ***Haiku: This Other World* (1998):** A collection of over 4,000 haikus written in the final years of his life, demonstrating his move toward poetry and nature.

Key Themes and Literary Significance

Wright's works are noted for their "protest" nature, laying bare the injustices faced by Black Americans in both the South and the North. His writing often uses a "rageful tone" and explores the psychology of violence as a result of systemic oppression, which was both acclaimed and controversial at the time of publication. He was a major figure in the Chicago literary scene and was for a time affiliated with the Communist Party.





THEODORE ROETHKE

(1908 -1963)

" And soon a branch, part of a hidden scene, The leafy mind,
that long was tightly furled, Will turn its private substance
into green, And young shoots spread upon our inner world."

Rewards & Honours

Theodore Roethke (1908-1963) was one of the most highly decorated American poets of his generation, winning the 1954 Pulitzer Prize for *The Waking* and two National Book Awards (1959, 1965). He also secured the Bollingen Prize (1958) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1950), solidifying his legacy as a premier, rhythmically driven lyrical poet.

Key rewards and honors received by Theodore Roethke include:

- [Pulitzer Prize for Poetry](#) (1954): Awarded for *The Waking: Poems 1933–1953*.
- [National Book Award for Poetry](#) (1959): Awarded for *Words for the Wind*.
- [National Book Award for Poetry](#) (1965): Awarded posthumously for *The Far Field*.
- [Bollingen Prize](#) (1958): Awarded by Yale University.
- [Guggenheim Fellowship](#) (1950):
- [Shelley Award](#) (1962):
- [Tietjens Prize](#) (1947): Awarded by *Poetry* magazine.
- [Honorary Degree](#) (1962): Doctor of Letters from the University of Michigan.

At the time of his death, Roethke was considered to have won more prizes than any other American poet. Additionally, the [Saginaw Valley State University](#) presents the biennial Roethke Poetry Prize in his honor.

Theatre & Film

Film

- *In a Dark Time: A Film About Theodore Roethke* (1964). Directed by Dan Myers for McGraw-Hill Films. 25:38 min.
- *I Remember Theodore Roethke* (2005). Produced and edited by [Jean Walkinshaw](#). SCCtv ([Seattle Community Colleges](#) Television). 30 min.

Theatre

- *First Class: A Play About Theodore Roethke* (2007). Written by [David Wagoner](#).



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.loa.org/books/selected-poems-paperback-2/>
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/156629/the-collected-poems-of-theodore-roethke-by-theodore-roethke/>
- 03] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/theodore-roethke/207924/?srsltid=AfmBOorQYqKcsiowVPyfWk9bs3LSbnjwRG39-5cTNoCs3SXqcIjm6Iox>
- 04] <https://www.ohioswallow.com/9780804041164/a-field-guide-to-the-poetry-of-theodore-roethke/>

Legacy

Theodore Roethke (1908-1963) left a profound legacy as one of the most influential 20th-century American poets, bridging modernism and confessionism through deeply introspective, rhythmic verse. A Pulitzer Prize and two-time National Book Award winner, he revolutionized poetry by focusing on the natural world, particularly the greenhouse, and was a renowned, transformative teacher.

Key aspects of Roethke's legacy include:

- **Unique Thematic Focus:** He drew on his childhood in Michigan to write about "greenhouse" life—roots, slugs, and decay—finding a "symbol for the whole of life" in that intimate, natural setting.
- **Award-Winning Poetry:** He won the 1954 Pulitzer Prize for *The Waking* and National Book Awards for *Words for the Wind* (1959) and *The Far Field* (1965, posthumous).
- **Pedagogical Influence:** As a teacher at the University of Washington (1947–1963), he was considered an electrifying and influential, if sometimes intimidating, mentor to a new generation of poets, including [Richard Hugo](#).

- **"Confessional" Precursor:** His work, such as *"The Lost Son,"* engaged directly with his struggles with bipolar disorder and his internal emotional life, influencing later poets.
- **Diverse Stylist:** He mastery spanned from concise, lyrical poems to long, free-verse meditations on nature and spirituality.

Roethke's work is celebrated for its musicality, raw emotion, and intense, intimate connection to the natural world.

Videos

01] Harry's Poetry Hour: The Collected Poems of Theodore Roethke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ubv0G6jHBiA> [55:39]

02] In a Dark Time : A Film About Theodore Roethke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnfntiG5IBc> [25:37]

03] Remarkable People - Theodore Roethke

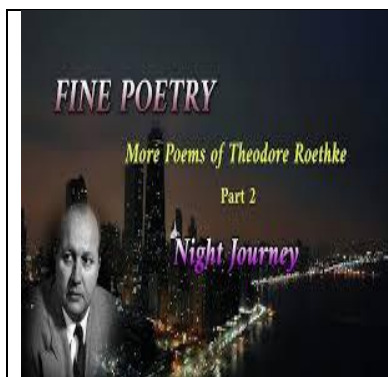
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edfly5jPb80> [28:26]

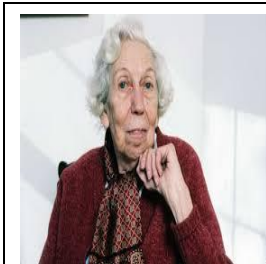
04] Dr. Gary A. Culbert, PhD lectures on poet Theodore Roethke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s26JDItdwms> [1:33:19]

Dr. Gary A. Culbert, PhD received his Bachelor's Degree from St. Olaf College, his Master's Degree from University of Chicago, and his PhD from University of Wisconsin. He taught from 1972-81 at the University of Washington in Seattle as Assistant Professor of English. The remaining 30 years of his career he taught at Eastside Catholic High School in Bellevue, Washington where he retired in 2010. To this day (currently 2024), he has a loyal legion of student and colleague fans, and has made an indelible mark on many lives, influencing some to pursue careers in teaching, writing, and television directing, inspiring them to believe in themselves. Most can still recite the opening prologue to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales which he required his students to memorize and be prepared to recite when called upon. Dr. Culbert is lovingly referred to by his students as "Doc."

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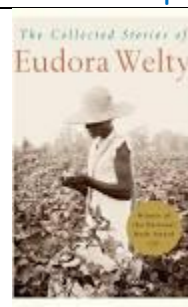
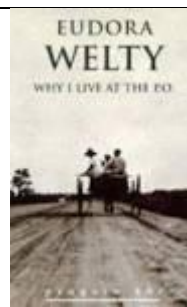




EUDORA WELTY

(1909-2001)

" Writing fiction has developed in me an abiding respect for the unknown in a human lifetime and a sense of where to look for the threads, how to follow, how to connect, find in the thick of the tangle what clear line persists."



Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/7973.Eudora_Welty
- 02] <https://www.loa.org/books/125-complete-novels/>
- 03] <https://earlybirdbooks.com/eudora-welty-books>
- 04] <https://www.eudorawelty.org/bibliography>
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/eudora-welty/>

Honours & Awards

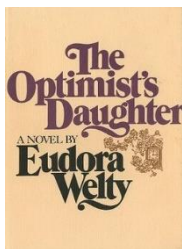
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudora_Welty#Honors

- 1941: [O. Henry Award](#), second place, "[A Worn Path](#)"
- 1942: O. Henry Award, first place, "The Wide Net"
- 1943: O. Henry Award, first place, "Livvie is Back"
- 1954: [William Dean Howells](#) medal for fiction, *The Ponder Heart*
- 1968: O. Henry Award, first place, "The Demonstrators"
- 1969: Fellow of the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#)
- 1970: The [Edward MacDowell Medal](#)
- 1973: [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#), *The Optimist's Daughter*^[15]
- 1979: Honorary Doctorate of Letters from [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) in Urbana, Illinois
- 1980: [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#)
- 1981: Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from [Randolph-Macon Woman's College](#) in Lynchburg, Virginia
- 1983: [National Book Award](#) for the first paperback edition of *The Collected Works of Eudora Welty*

- 1983: Invited by [Harvard University](#) to give the first annual Massey Lectures in the History of American Civilization, revised and published as *One Writer's Beginnings*
- 1983: [St. Louis Literary Award](#) from the [Saint Louis University](#) Library Associates
- 1985: Honorary Doctorate of Letters from [The College of William and Mary in Virginia](#)
- 1985: Achievement Award, [American Association of University Women](#)
- 1986: [National Medal of Arts](#).
- 1990: A recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, Lifetime Achievement, which was the state of Mississippi's recognition of her extraordinary contribution to American Letters.
- 1991: [National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters](#)
- 1991: [Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award](#). The Helmerich Award is presented annually by the [Tulsa Library Trust](#).
- 1992: Rea Award for the Short Story
- 1992: [PEN/Malamud Award](#) for the Short Story
- 1992: [National Humanities Medal](#)
- 1993: [Charles Frankel Prize](#), [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
- 1993: Distinguished Alumni Award, American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- 1996: Made a [Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur](#) by the French government
- 1998: First living author to have her works published in the prestigious [Library of America](#) series
- 2000: [America Award](#) for a lifetime contribution to international writing
- 2000: Induction into the [National Women's Hall of Fame](#)

Book Review: The Optimist's Daughter

<https://brettmilam.com/2024/01/15/book-review-the-optimists-daughter/>



Another word for grief is memory, and memory is the fluttering bird swooping down from the chimney, finding itself ensconced in your room, not willing to be swooped back out to a freedom of a kind. Until it is. Such is the metaphor at work in Eudora Welty's 1969 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Optimist's Daughter*. When it comes to death and dying, and the resulting grief, there is optimism to be found, eventually.

Q "The excursion is the same when you go looking for your sorrow as when you go looking for your joy."



Eudora Welty Foundation

<https://www.eudorawelty.org/>

The Eudora Welty Foundation was established to honor and extend the legacy of one of America's most beloved writers. Rooted in Jackson, Mississippi, where Welty lived and wrote for most of her life, the Foundation works in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to preserve her home, garden, and papers.

From the beginning, the Foundation has balanced stewardship with imagination. While safeguarding the house and its collections, we have also launched programs, lectures, and publications that place Welty's voice in conversation with today's readers and writers. What began as an effort to protect one home has grown into a vibrant organization that champions storytelling, nurtures creativity, and connects people across generations.

Eudora Welty House Museum

<https://www.wonderfulmuseums.com/museum/eudora-welty-house-museum/>

The Eudora Welty House Museum is much more than just a house; it's a remarkably preserved capsule of the life and creative environment of one of America's most celebrated authors, offering an unparalleled glimpse into the specific Southern landscape and intellectual world that shaped her distinctive voice and vision. It serves as a vital testament to Welty's enduring literary legacy, allowing visitors to walk through the very rooms where she conceived and penned her Pulitzer Prize-winning works, providing an intimate connection to her personal history and her extraordinary contribution to American letters.

- ❖ "Writers and travellers are mesmerized alike by knowing of their destinations."
- ❖ "A story is not the same thing when it ends as it was when it began."



ELIZABETH BISHOP

(1911-1979)

"All my life I have lived and behaved very much like the sandpiper - just running down the edges of different countries and continents, 'looking for something'."

His Legacy

Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) is revered as one of the 20th century's most accomplished, precise, and influential poets, often considered a "poet's poet" known for her mastery of formal structure, detailed observation, and themes of travel and loss. Despite publishing a small body of work, she won the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and Neustadt International Prize, securing a lasting, stellar reputation for her "careful attention to detail".

KEY ELEMENTS OF HER LEGACY INCLUDE:

- **Renowned Technical Skill:** Bishop is celebrated for her "metaphysical" approach, formal brilliance (using sestinas, villanelles), and a "famous eye" for minute, objective, and accurate detail.
- **Major Literary Awards:** She was the first woman and American to win the Neustadt International Prize for Literature (1976), won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1956 for *North & South/A Cold Spring*), and the National Book Award (1970 for *Complete Poems*).
- **Influence on Future Generations:** Regarded by critics like Harold Bloom as a major figure, her work significantly influenced poets such as James Merrill and Seamus Heaney.
- **Posthumous Growth:** While respected during her life, her fame grew substantially after her death with the publication of *The Complete Poems: 1927-1979* (1983) and her correspondence, *One Art: Letters* (1994).
- **Themes of Place:** Her extensive time in Brazil (1951–1971) and travels informed her work, which often explored landscapes, exoticism, and displacement.
- **Literary Canon:** She is consistently grouped with major poets like Emily Dickinson in terms of the universality and enduring appeal of her work.

Bishop served as the Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (1949-1950), now known as the Poet Laureate. She was also an accomplished painter and teacher, spending several years at Harvard University.

Elizabeth Bishop documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XB6sJ-PeLo> [56:31]

Some Useful Web Links

01] Elizabeth Bishop House & Garden

<https://www.kwls.org/bishop/>

02] Elizabeth Bishop

<https://www.loa.org/writers/143-elizabeth-bishop/>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/n79047629/elizabeth-bishop/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/contributors/elizabeth-bishop>

<https://us.macmillan.com/author/elizabethbishop>

<https://hudsonreview.com/2020/09/the-durable-art-of-elizabeth-bishop/>

https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poets/poet/102-24269_Bishop

His Famous Works

Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet renowned for her precise, observational, and often detached style. Her most famous works include the poems "One Art," "The Fish," "In the Waiting Room," and "The Moose," along with the collections *North & South* (1946) and *Geography III* (1976), which explored themes of travel, memory, and loss.

Key Poetry Collections

- ***North & South* (1946)**: Her debut volume, featuring acclaimed, detailed observational poems like "The Fish" and "Roosters".
- ***Poems: North & South. A Cold Spring* (1955)**: A combined collection that won the 1956 Pulitzer Prize.
- ***Questions of Travel* (1965)**: Focused on her time in Brazil, exploring themes of geography and cultural displacement.
- ***Geography III* (1976)**: Her final, highly celebrated collection featuring "One Art" and "In the Waiting Room".

Most Famous Individual Poems

- **"One Art" (1976)**: A renowned villanelle about loss and the "art" of mastering it.
- **"The Fish" (1946)**: A detailed, vivid description of catching a fish, famous for its intense focus.
- **"In the Waiting Room" (1976)**: Explores a childhood moment of realization regarding identity and, separateness.
- **"The Moose" (1972)**: A poem depicting a bus journey through Canada.

- "[At the Fishhouses](#)" (1955): Focuses on 1955: imagery of the sea and the cold, harsh landscape.
- "[The Armadillo](#)" (1957): A poem written in Brazil, noted for its rich imagery and emotional depth.
- "[Crusoe in England](#)" (1976): A re-imagining of Robinson Crusoe's story from a mature, isolated perspective.

Other Notable Works

- [The Complete Poems, 1927–1979](#) (1983): Posthumous collection.
- [The Collected Prose](#) (1984): Included stories like "In the Village".
- [The Ballad of the Burglar of Babylon](#) (1968): A narrative poem.

Bishop was the first American to win the [Neustadt International Prize](#) (1976) and was Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (1949–1950).

Honours and Awards

Elizabeth Bishop (1911–1979) was a highly decorated American poet and translator, winning the Pulitzer Prize (1956) for *Poems: North & South/A Cold Spring*, the National Book Award (1970) for *The Complete Poems*, and the National Book Critics Circle Award (1976) for *Geography III*. She also received the prestigious \$100,000 [Neustadt International Prize for Literature](#) (1976), was a Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (1949–1950), and a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets (1966–1979).

Key Honours and Awards

- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1956):** For *Poems: North & South/A Cold Spring*.
- **National Book Award for Poetry (1970):** For *The Complete Poems*.
- **Neustadt International Prize for Literature (1976):** She was the first woman and the first American to win this award.
- **National Book Critics Circle Award (1976):** For *Geography III*.
- [Guggenheim Fellowship](#) (1947 and 1953): Received for her work in poetry.
- **Shelley Memorial Award (1951):** From the Poetry Society of America.
- **Academy of American Poets Fellowship (1964):** For distinguished poetic achievement.
- **Harriet Monroe Poetry Award (1953):** From the Poetry Foundation.
- **Ingram Merrill Foundation Grant (1959)**

"You Are An I": On Elizabeth Bishop | Woodberry Poetry Room

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQtDDhlZw1Q> [1:12:48]



TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (1911-1983)

"There comes a time when you look into the mirror and you realize that what you see is all that you will ever be. And then you accept it. Or you kill yourself. Or you stop looking in mirrors."

Compiled by:

Deborah Priscilla I <::> Reg No. 253313111005



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/tennessee-williams>
- 02] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/tennessee-williams/196581/?srsltid=AfmBOoopADahthy1LO2VHNIaJZvumz4Vq49PVE SNZWNUMnisO5iwpZuo>
- 03] <https://uipress.uiowa.edu/books/early-stories-tennessee-williams>
- 04] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/tennessee-williams/>

His Legacy

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) left an enduring legacy as one of the 20th century's most acclaimed American playwrights, fundamentally shaping modern theater with his poetic realism and intense exploration of fragile, desperate characters. His masterpieces—*A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947) and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955)—earned him two Pulitzer Prizes and established him as a premier voice in Southern Gothic literature.

- **Literary Impact & Style:** Williams' work introduced "plastic theatre," using lighting, music, and set design to express the inner psychological states of characters. His plays explored themes of desire, guilt, mental fragility, and, in his words, "the closets, attics and basements of human behavior".

- **Awards & Recognition:** In addition to his two Pulitzers, he won four Drama Critics' Circle Awards and was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1979. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980.
- **Enduring Popularity:** His plays remain staples of international theater, with major, consistent revivals on Broadway and in regional theaters.
- **Cultural Legacy:** Williams' life and work are commemorated through festivals in key locations, such as New Orleans, Key West, and Clarksdale, Mississippi. His work in the 1950s was frequently adapted into classic films, cementing his characters in popular culture.

His legacy also includes his courage in exploring taboo subjects, such as sexual desire, madness, and the struggles of LGBTQ+ individuals, paving the way for greater candor in American arts.

Awards

Tennessee Williams won two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama during his career, honoring his significant contributions to American theater. He received the award for A Streetcar Named Desire (1948) and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955). These masterpieces solidified his reputation as one of the 20th century's most influential playwrights, known for exploring themes of desire, madness, and Southern Gothic atmosphere.

Pulitzer Prize Winning Plays:

- **A Streetcar Named Desire (1948):** This play, which premiered on Broadway in 1947, was honored for its dramatic power and portrayal of American life.
- **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955):** Williams received his second Pulitzer for this 1955 production, which explored, among other themes, mendacity within a wealthy Southern family.

Group Theatre Prize (1939)

Rockefeller Grant (1939)

Sidney Howard Memorial Award, The Glass Menagerie (1945)

Donaldson Award, The Glass Menagerie (1945)

New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, The Glass Menagerie (1945)

New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, A Streetcar Named Desire (1948)

Donaldson Award, A Streetcar Named Desire (1948)

Pulitzer Prize, A Streetcar Named Desire (1948)

Tony Award, The Rose Tattoo (1952)

Pulitzer Prize, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955)

Tony Award, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955)

New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, The Night of the Iguana (1961)

Tony Award, The Night of the Iguana (1961)

Presidential Medal of Freedom (1980)

Other Notable Achievements:

While *The Glass Menagerie* (1945) did not win a Pulitzer, it won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, launching his success. In addition to his two Pulitzers, Williams won three New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards and three Donaldson Awards.

Videos

01] Tennessee Williams :<>: Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooOWpeMqE-E> [44:19]

Thomas Lanier Williams III (March 26, 1911 – February 25, 1983), known by his pen name Tennessee Williams, was an American playwright. Along with contemporaries Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller, he is considered among the three foremost playwrights of 20th-century American drama.

At age 33, after years of obscurity, Williams suddenly became famous with the success of *The Glass Menagerie* (1944) in New York City. This play closely reflected his own unhappy family background. It was the first of a string of successes, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), and *The Night of the Iguana* (1961). With his later work, Williams attempted a new style that did not appeal as widely to audiences. His drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* is often numbered on short lists of the finest American plays of the 20th century alongside Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

02] A Celebration of Tennessee Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NYI-OLKE3U> [1:35:21]

Tennessee Williams was an American treasure and one of our preeminent playwrights, having been awarded top theatrical awards including the Pulitzer Prize twice, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards twice, a Tony Award and more. He would have observed his 100th birthday in March of 2011, and it seems like the whole world is commemorating his centenary, 92nd Street Y included.

03] Interpreting Tennessee Williams (Working in the Theatre #331)

A remarkable one-time-only meeting of cast members from two concurrent Williams revivals on Broadway—Natasha Richardson, John C. Reilly and Chris Bauer of *A "Streetcar Named Desire"* and Jessica Lange and Christian Slater of *"The Glass Menagerie."*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6m2k_hfI0g [1:36:30]

04] Best Of Writers | Stephen King, Tennessee Williams & More | The Dick Cavett Show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZF7MTer6mfU> [1:53:55]

Dick Cavett is joined by Stephen King, George Romero, Norman Mailer, Neil Simon, and Tennessee Williams to discuss their iconic lives and works as some of the best writers.



Tennessee Williams and Company

His Essential Screen Actors

https://www.johndileo.com/tennessee_williams_and_company_his_essential_screen_actors_105028.htm

Published in November of 2010, this book focuses on 11 actors who appear in more than one Williams movie, forming an unofficial stock company of actors. This is a critical look at these actors and their roles, bonded by their sustained artistic and professional association with Williams, specifically the success, and sometimes failure, of their interpretations of his characters for the screen. The results include some of the more remarkable performances in movie history, from Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh in *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* to Anna Magnani in *THE ROSE TATTOO* and Geraldine Page in *SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH*. The book takes you through the entire careers of these eleven indelible stars, not just Brando, Leigh, Magnani, and Page, but also Karl Malden, Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor, Joanne Woodward, Richard Burton, Mildred Dunnock, and Madeleine Sherwood.

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JOHN CHEEVER (1912-1982)

"What I am going to write is the last of what I have to say. I will say that literature is the only consciousness we possess and that its role as consciousness must inform us of our ability to comprehend the hideous danger of nuclear power."

Compiled by:

Surya Kumar A S <::> Reg No. 253313121002

His Works

John Cheever (1912-1982) was a renowned American novelist and short story writer, often referred to as "the Chekhov of the suburbs" for his focus on the lives, manners, and morals of middle-class suburbanites. His work is characterized by precise, elegant prose and an exploration of themes like conformity, class, and the hidden anxieties of postwar American life.

Novels

- **The Wapshot Chronicle (1957):** A satirical chronicle of a declining New England family, which won the National Book Award.
- **The Wapshot Scandal (1964):** The sequel to *The Wapshot Chronicle*, which won the Howells Medal.
- **Bullet Park (1967):** A novel exploring suburban life.
- **Falconer (1977):** A dark, critically acclaimed novel about a drug-addicted professor in prison.
- **Oh What a Paradise It Seems (1982):** A short novel (novella) focusing on environmental and personal themes.

Short Story Collections

Cheever was a master of the short story, with over 100 published in *The New Yorker*.

- **The Way Some People Live (1943):** His first collection.
- **The Enormous Radio and Other Stories (1953):** Included the acclaimed title story.
- **The Housebreaker of Shady Hill and Other Stories (1958):** Suburban-focused stories.
- **The Brigadier and the Golf Widow (1964):** A collection of 16 stories.
- **The World of Apples (1973):** Short stories.

- **The Stories of John Cheever (1978):** A compilation that won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award.
- **Thirteen Uncollected Stories (1994):** Posthumous collection.

Famous Short Stories

- **"The Enormous Radio" (1947):** A story about a radio that broadcasts the private conversations of neighbors.
- **"The Swimmer" (1964):** A iconic story about a man traversing his county through backyard pools.
- **"The Five-Forty-Eight" (1954):** A story about a commuter confronted by a former secretary.
- **"Goodbye, My Brother" (1951):** A tale of familial conflict.
- **"The Country Husband" (1955):** Focuses on a suburbanite's midlife crisis.

Non-Fiction

- **The Journals of John Cheever (1991):** Posthumously published, offering candid insights into his life, struggles with alcoholism, and bisexuality.
- **The Letters of John Cheever (1988):** Edited by his son, Benjamin Cheever.

His Legacy

John Cheever (1912-1982) left a lasting legacy as "the Chekhov of the suburbs," masterfully documenting the hidden anxieties, marital discord, and moral complexities of post-war American middle-class life. Renowned for his ironic, elegant prose and over 100 *New Yorker* stories, he won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for *The Stories of John Cheever* (1978).

Key Elements of His Legacy:

- **Suburban Chronicler:** Cheever defined the literary portrait of 20th-century American suburbia, peeling back the polished surfaces of affluent life to reveal underlying despair and tension.
- **Master of the Short Story:** Often focusing on episodic, intensely observed moments, his famous stories include "[The Swimmer](#)," "[The Enormous Radio](#)," and "[The Five-Forty-Eight](#)".
- **Novelist:** While known for short fiction, he won the National Book Award for his first novel, [The Wapshot Chronicle](#) (1957).
- **Themes:** His work frequently explored the duality of human nature, nostalgia for a vanishing New England, and the search for meaning in modern life.
- **Awards:** In addition to the Pulitzer and National Book Award, he was awarded the National Medal for Literature in 1982.

- **Public and Private Persona:** Following his death, the publication of his intimate, sometimes painful journals revealed a deeper, more complex, and vulnerable man than his public image suggested, adding to his lasting, often "tragicomic" reputation.

His work continues to influence contemporary literature, though his reputation has experienced shifts since his peak popularity in the late 1970s.



Web Links for his Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/129275.Best_of_John_Cheever
- 02] <https://www.loa.org/books/297-complete-novels/>
- 03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/john-cheever/>
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/john-cheever/_/N-2kcs

92NY

<https://www.92ny.org/archives/john-cheever-the-swimmer>

"The story was made into a film some of you may have seen," Cheever remarked before he began to read one of his most famous stories, **"The Swimmer"** at 92Y in 1977. "It still runs on late-night television. I know because people always call me and say, 'Hey, you're in the movies!' It's usually about half past 11... Here again the story has had an international success, and the various interpretations have always interested me. It's very popular in Russia, for example, where there are almost no swimming pools and where almost nobody swims."

Burt Lancaster starred in the adaptation, which was shot in May of 1966. "Though an acrobat, a boxer, and a horseman," Blake Bailey reports in his biography, "Lancaster could scarcely swim a stroke and had been working since April with the UCLA swimming coach." Cheever himself makes a brief cameo at a poolside cocktail party. Unhappy with the original cut, the producer delayed the film's release until 1968. After attending the premiere, Cheever wrote to a friend: "It is not a great picture, but it is faithful to the story, and at the end, when he returns to the empty house, grown men weep." And he thought Lancaster was terrific—"both young and old, masterful and tearful ... lithe and haggard."

Bailey says that Cheever had been nervous about meeting Lancaster that first day on set, but "after shooting was finished that morning, the actor put on a bathrobe and had a poolside lunch with Cheever...after which Cheever (evidently over the worst of his shyness) 'jumped beararse' into the water."

Awards

- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1979
The Stories of John Cheever
- National Book Award for Fiction 1958
The Wapshot Chronicle
- National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction 1978
The Stories of John Cheever
- Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts, US & Canada 1951
- Ambassador Book Award for American Arts and Letters 1992
The Journals of John Cheever
- National Book Award for Fiction (Paperback) 1981
The Stories of John Cheever

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Videos

01] Book Talk: Susan Cheever — When All the Men Wore Hats — with Molly Jong-Fast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ip_axQKaE8 [1:00:47]

A sympathetic and illuminating account of the stories of John Cheever, and the intersecting life and work of the legendary writer John Cheever, as told by his eldest daughter. *The Stories of John Cheever*, published in 1978, brought together some of the finest short fiction ever written. The collection was honored with the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and it would go on to sell millions of copies and to define the American short story and shape generations of writers. Cheever's chronicles of modern life both emerged from a distinctly American culture and also created it—inspiring everything from *Mad Men* to a Raymond Carver story, from rock songs to a *Seinfeld* episode. Growing up, Susan Cheever, John Cheever's eldest child and only daughter, read what he read, heard what he heard, bantered and gossiped with him and her brothers and mother at the dinner table, and later watched her father type on the cheap yellow paper he favored. A daughter much like Susan appears in many of Cheever's stories and a family much like theirs is at the center of his writing.

02] Discussing *The Five-Forty-Eight* by John Cheever

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4iFEPHiCiw> [39:30]

03] John Cheever, "The Five-Forty-Eight"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hP4kMTnIJMI> [25:07]

04] Celebrating "The Stories of John Cheever" Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqJT43124F8> [35:19]

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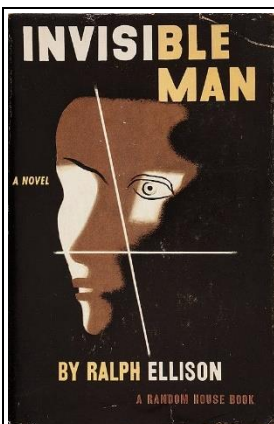
RALPH ELLISON

(1913-1994)

"I am an invisible man. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids - and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me."

Compiled by:

Shenbaga Nachiyar C <::> Reg No. 243313111004



Invisible Man

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invisible_Man

Invisible Man is [Ralph Ellison](#)'s first novel, and the only one published during his lifetime. It was first published by the British magazine *Horizon* in 1947, and addresses many of the social and intellectual issues faced by [African Americans](#) in the early 20th century, including [black nationalism](#), the relationship between black identity and [Marxism](#), and the reformist racial policies of [Booker T. Washington](#), as well as issues of individuality and personal identity.

Invisible Man won the U.S. [National Book Award for Fiction](#) in 1953, making Ellison the first [African-American writer](#) to win the award. In 1998, the [Modern Library](#) ranked *Invisible Man* 19th on its list of the [100 best English-language novels of the 20th century](#). *Time* magazine included the novel in its 100 Best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005 list, calling it "the quintessential American [picaresque](#) of the 20th century." [Malcolm Bradbury](#) and Richard Ruland recognize a [black existentialist](#) vision with a "Kafka-like absurdity." According to *The New York Times*, [Barack Obama](#) modeled his 1995 memoir *Dreams from My Father* on Ellison's novel.

Some Important Web Links

01] The Life and Legacy of Ralph Ellison

<https://radio.wpsu.org/2007-05-03/the-life-and-legacy-of-ralph-ellison>

<https://www.npr.org/2007/05/03/9977702/the-life-and-legacy-of-ralph-ellison>

<https://www.wlrn.org/npr-breaking-news/2007-05-03/the-life-and-legacy-of-ralph-ellison>

02] The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=EL009>

03] The achievement of Ralph Ellison

<https://newcriterion.com/article/the-achievement-of-ralph-ellison-4167/>



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/ralph-ellison/_/N-2kjl
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/7508.Ralph_Ellison
- 03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/ralph-ellison/>
- 04] <https://guides.loc.gov/ralph-ellison-collection/about-the-collection>
- 05] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/ralph-ellison/198719/?srsltid=AfmBOorTa4oCz9KXUyb9rXtEJ5QwXZ8ZqruqU8UI6X0ZZWR7dq_Znvcn
- 06] <https://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/ralph-ellison/>

AWARDS

Rosenwald Foundation Grant (1944)
 National Book Award (1953)
 National Newspaper Publisher's Russwurm Award (1953)
 Chicago Defender's Award (1953)
 Member, Century Association (1964)
 Kennedy Center Trustee (1967-1977)
 Presidential Medal of Freedom (1969)
 Chevalier, Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1970)
 Board of Directors, Museum of the City of New York (1970-1985)
 Member, American Academy of Arts and Letters (1975)
 Langston Hughes Medallion (1984)
 National Medal of Arts (1985)
 Special Achievement Award, Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards (1992)

Ralph Ellison **Timeline** How It All Went Down

<https://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/ralph-ellison/timeline.html>

Ralph Ellison

Resources

Best of the Web

Websites

Books

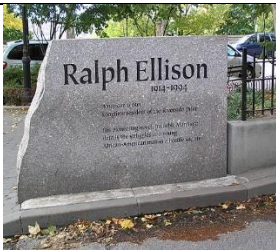
Movies & TV

Music

Images

Video & Audio

Primary Sources



RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY



<https://www.metrolibrary.org/locations/ralph-ellison>

The Ralph Ellison Library opened in its current location in 1975. Named in honor of Oklahoma City native and acclaimed author Ralph Ellison, this library is in one of Oklahoma City's historically African-American neighborhoods yet serves a diverse group of residents. Customers rely on the library to find basic information about voting, taxes, tutoring, government assistance, and a variety of other fundamental needs. In addition, the library serves a dynamic population of motivated customers ranging from school-age children to young adults and elders in the community. The Library serves as an essential hub for services, research, programs and events linking members of the larger community to one another.

Videos

01] Ralph Ellison documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfqldX6UzA8> [1:25:58]

02] Why You Should Read Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KREZtKpFovY> [39:41]

03] The Photography of Ralph Ellison

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGvOuCWSE1I> [1:09:10]

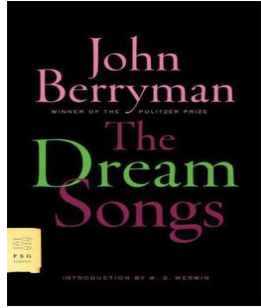
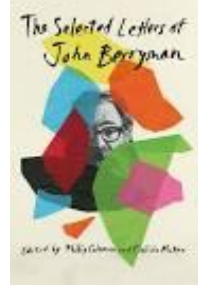
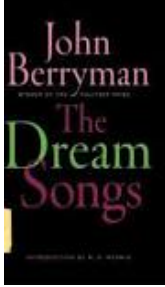
04] The Great American Novel Series: Invisible Man (Ralph Ellison)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mWqGoZCWsU> [1:30:55]

05] Ralph Ellison's Life in Letters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A16QRmqLReY> [49:31]

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|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">JOHN BERRYMAN
(1914-1972)</p> <p>" You should always be trying to write a poem you are unable to write, a poem you lack the technique, the language, the courage to achieve. Otherwise you're merely imitating yourself, going nowhere, because that's always easiest."</p> | | | | |
|  | <p>The Dream Songs is a compilation of two books of poetry, <u>77 Dream Songs</u> (1964) and <i>His Toy, His Dream, His Rest</i> (1968), by the American poet <u>John Berryman</u>. According to Berryman's "Note" to <i>The Dream Songs</i>, "This volume combines 77 <i>Dream Songs</i> and <i>His Toy, His Dream, His Rest</i>, comprising Books I through VII of a poem whose working title, since 1955, has been <i>The Dream Songs</i>." In total, the work consists of 385 individual poems.</p> <p>The book is listed by the <u>Academy of American Poets</u> as one of its "Classic Books of American Poetry". The <i>Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry</i> calls <i>The Dream Songs</i> Berryman's "major work" and says the poems "form, like his friend <u>Robert Lowell's</u> <i>Notebook</i>, a poetic journal, and represent, half phantasmagorically, the changes in Berryman's mood and attitude." His <u>77 Dream Songs</u> (1964) won the 1965 <u>Pulitzer Prize for Poetry</u>.</p> | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Web Links for his Books</u></p> <p>01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/86808.John_Berryman</p> <p>02] https://www.nationalbook.org/people/john-berryman/</p> <p>03] https://poets.org/poet/john-berryman</p> <p>04] https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-berryman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dream a Little Dream of Me: John Berryman on Poetry
https://themillions.com/2012/04/dream-a-little-dream-of-me-john-berryman.html</p> | | | | | |

His Famous Works

John Berryman (1914-1972) was a major American poet associated with the mid-20th-century confessional movement, best known for his complex, autobiographical work, particularly *The Dream Songs*.

Here are his most famous and notable works:

Major Poetry Collections & Works

- ***The Dream Songs* (1969):** Berryman's masterpiece, this is a sequence of 385 poems that combines two earlier volumes, *77 Dream Songs* (1964) and *His Toy, His Dream, His Rest* (1968). The poems feature an anguished, often deranged character named "Henry" and explore themes of grief, depression, and alcoholism through a fractured, conversational, and often darkly humorous style.
 - *77 Dream Songs* won the 1965 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.
 - *His Toy, His Dream, His Rest* won the 1969 National Book Award.
- ***Homage to Mistress Bradstreet* (1956):** A long, critically acclaimed poem that brought him to national attention. It is a dense, dialogue-based poem written as a tribute to Anne Bradstreet, the first woman to write English verse in the American colonies.
- ***Berryman's Sonnets* (1967):** A sequence of poems focusing on a, passionate, and, often, illicit love affair.
- ***The Ball Poem*:** A famous short poem that explores themes of loss, grief, and growing up as a young boy loses his ball in a river.
- ***Only Sing: 152 Uncollected Dream Songs* (2025):** A posthumous collection of previously unpublished, "Dream Songs".

Prose and Other Works

- ***Recovery* (1973):** A posthumously published novel detailing his, struggle with, alcoholism.
- ***The Freedom of the Poet* (1976):** A collection of essays and short stories.
- ***Stephen Crane* (1950):** A critical biography of the 19th-century American author.

Key Themes

Berryman's work is characterized by intense, personal confession, formal, innovation, and, often, a, blending, of, high, art, with, low, comedy. His, poems frequently tackle themes of death, suicide, depression, and, the, complexities, of, the, human, psyche.

Why John Berryman's Poetry Matters Today

<https://readdurhamenglish.wordpress.com/2013/06/06/john-berryman-poetry/>

The Encyclopaedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=BE024>

Videos

01] Great Books: The Dream Songs, by John Berryman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqDy9Wj1f0o> [53:18]

Michael Carriger, Associate Professor of English, discusses 'The Dream Songs', by John Berryman. The Great Books Mini-Lecture Series is designed to introduce you to watershed texts that have changed readers' views of the world. It's a series of short talks on great books.

02] OMG & WTF: John Berryman's Legacy of Extreme Expression

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wku_6BhjfcY [1:24:09]

Four poet-critics (Joy Katz, Kathleen Ossip, Sasha Steensen and Heather Treseler) address Berryman's abiding influence on contemporary poetry, exploring issues of racism and alienation, the book-liness and unity of "The Dream Songs," as well as his wildflower version of confessionalism. Archival audio accompanies this substantive and wide-ranging discussion of how Berryman's work continues to inform lyric possibilities. The reading was held as an off-site event, during the 2013 AWP Conference.

03] The Ball Poem / John Berryman // Dr. A. Raghu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEYQkGQ8LOY> [1:09:05]

04] Understanding John Berryman's THE DREAM SONGS (1964 - 1969)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkW7RWgoF3E> [1:05:02]

Confessional poet John Berryman (1914 – 1972) is best remembered as the author of 77 DREAM SONGS (1964), HIS TOY, HIS DREAM HIS REST (1968), and THE DREAM SONGS (1969). These books comprise the total 385 Dream Songs – loosely structured, 18-line (give or take) poems – that have been the subject of so much controversy since their publication. Although I get to John Berryman's use of "literary blackface" in another video, it's important to put such arguments into context: namely, who ARE John Berryman's characters, anyway, and what are some clues for better understanding how the poems work? In this video, we consider John Berryman's life, the pitfalls of using (and not using) biographical details in literary criticism, then define a strategy to tackle the first Dream Song.

05] John Berryman at 100, A Celebration: Panel 1 with Rachel Hadas and Daniel Swift

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsoR1NWPWyU> [34:52]

The Poetry Society of America, along with Columbia School of the Arts, Barnard Women Poets, and Heyman Center for the Humanities, host an evening of poetry in honor of John Berryman, 1914–1972. A scholar and professor as well as a poet, John Berryman is best-known for The Dream Songs, an intensely personal sequence of 385 poems which brought him the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. In these he invented a style and form able to accommodate a vast range of material while expressing his turbulent emotions.

The frankness of Berryman's work influenced his friend Robert Lowell and other Confessional poets like Anne Sexton. The poet's lifelong struggles with alcoholism and depression ended in 1972, when he jumped off a Minneapolis bridge in the dead of winter.

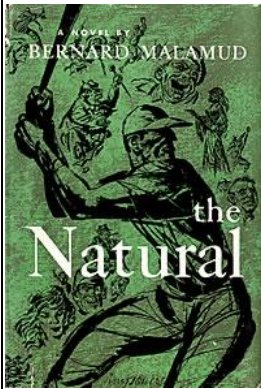
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BERNARD MALAMUD

(1914-1986)

" There comes a time in a man's life when to get where he has to go - if there are no doors or windows he walks through a wall."



The Natural

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Natural

The Natural is a 1952 novel about baseball by [Bernard Malamud](#), and is his [debut novel](#). The story follows Roy Hobbs, a baseball prodigy whose career is sidetracked after being shot by a woman whose motivation remains mysterious. The story mostly concerns his attempts to return to baseball later in life, when he plays for the fictional New York Knights with his self-made bat "Wonderboy".

A film adaptation, [The Natural](#), starring [Robert Redford](#) as Roy Hobbs, was released in 1984. In contrast to the film's ending, the novel features a much more bleak ending.

Awards

- 1958 [National Jewish Book Award](#), winner for [The Assistant](#)^{[25][26]}
- 1959 [National Book Award for Fiction](#), winner for [The Magic Barrel](#)^[13]
- 1967 [National Book Award for Fiction](#), winner for [The Fixer](#)^[1]
- 1967 [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#), winner for [The Fixer](#)^[2]
- 1969 [O. Henry Award](#), winner for "Man in the Drawer" in *The Atlantic Monthly*, April 1968^[27]
- 1984 [PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction](#), runner-up for *The Stories*

PEN/Malamud Award

Given annually since 1988 to honor Malamud's memory, the [PEN/Malamud Award](#) recognizes excellence in the art of the short story. The award is funded in part by Malamud's \$10,000 bequest to the [PEN American Center](#). The fund continues to grow thanks to the generosity of many members of PEN and other friends, and with the proceeds from annual readings. Past winners of the award include [John Updike](#) (1988), [Saul Bellow](#) (1989), [Eudora Welty](#) (1992), [Joyce Carol Oates](#) (1996), [Alice Munro](#) (1997), [Sherman Alexie](#) (2001), [Ursula K. Le Guin](#) (2002), and [Tobias Wolff](#) (2006).

Bibliography

Bernard Malamud (1914–1986) was a prominent American novelist and short-story writer known for his focus on Jewish immigrant life, moral dilemmas, and themes of redemption through suffering. Key works include the Pulitzer Prize-winning The Fixer (1966) and his debut novel The Natural (1952). His work blends realism with myth and fable.

Novels

- *The Natural* (1952)
- *The Assistant* (1957)
- *A New Life* (1961)
- *The Fixer* (1966)
- *Pictures of Fidelman: An Exhibition* (1969)
- *The Tenants* (1971)
- *Dubin's Lives* (1979)
- *God's Grace* (1982)

Short Story Collections

- *The Magic Barrel* (1958)
- *Idiots First* (1963)
- *Rembrandt's Hat* (1973)
- *The Stories of Bernard Malamud* (1983)
- *The People and Uncollected Stories* (1989)
- *The Complete Stories* (1997)

Notable Short Stories

- "Angel Levine" (1955)
- "Take Pity" (1956)
- "The Jewbird" (1963)
- "Man in the Drawer" (1968)
- "My Son the Murderer" (1968)
- "Talking Horse" (1972)
- "The Silver Crown" (1972)

His Legacy

Bernard Malamud (1914–1986) left a lasting legacy as a preeminent 20th-century American Jewish author who blended harsh reality with mythic, fable-like storytelling to explore suffering, redemption, and morality. Known for *The Natural* and *The Fixer* (Pulitzer/National Book Award), his work enduringly portrays ordinary people seeking dignity.

Key Elements of His Legacy:

- **The Jewish Experience:** Malamud is considered a foundational, "universalizing" Jewish-American writer, using his background to examine the human condition rather than just specific theology.

- **Major Works & Awards:**

- ***The Natural* (1952):** A mythic,, baseball-focused debut later adapted into a 1984 film.
- ***The Fixer* (1966):** Won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for its intense portrayal of antisemitism.
- ***The Magic Barrel* (1958):** A collection that secured his reputation as a master of short fiction.
- **Themes of Moral Struggle:** His characters often find themselves trapped in difficult, "otherworldly" situations, focusing on moral awakening through suffering and the "with-world" of human relationships.
- **Literary Impact:** Along with Saul Bellow and Philip Roth, he was part of the triumvirate of major 20th-century Jewish-American novelists. His legacy is continued through the [PEN/Malamud Award](#), awarded for excellence in short fiction.
- **"The Assistant":** His 1957 novel is frequently cited for its deep empathy for ordinary, suffering people.

Malamud's work often focused on the idea that even the greatest art is less important than a single human life, aiming to show how humanity can survive with dignity and empathy.

VIDEOS

01] Small Miracles: The Stories of Bernard Malamud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uft9wU-QTC4> [57:29]

An unparalleled master of the short story, Bernard Malamud ranks among America's greatest mythmakers and illuminators of the human heart, blending humor and truth in works that, to quote Saul Bellow, "discovered a sort of communicative genius in the impoverished, harsh jargon of immigrant New York." To mark publication of the third and final volume of LOA's Malamud edition, join biographer and editor Philip Davis and acclaimed writers Tobias Wolff and Nicole Krauss for a master class in "The Magic Barrel," one of Malamud's most brilliant and beloved tales.

02] A Tribute to Bernard Malamud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz2WBkPX5ds> [1:17:17]

A tribute to Bernard Malamud, featuring Alan Cheuse, Philip Davis, Clark Blaise, Liesl Schillinger, Kevin Baker, Téa Obreht, Bharati Mukherjee, and moderator Boris Fishman.

03] The Natural audiobook written by Bernard Malamud read by Ken Howard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEuDYb2kwoY> [2:05:45]

The Natural (1952) by Bernard Malamud read by Ken Howard (1986). Traveling across the country by train to try out for a professional baseball team, a young man with a great pitching arm comes across a seductive woman and disaster ensues. A long fifteen years later at an age when most ballplayers are washed up, he's back up to form and hired by a professional baseball team. Will something derail his dreams again.



ARTHUR MILLER

(1915-2005)

"And yet one can't forever stand on the shore; at some point, even if filled with indecision, skepticism, reservation and doubt, you either jump in or concede that life is forever elsewhere."

Compiled by:

Jemima Rachel J <::> Reg No. 243313111001

His Legacy

Arthur Miller (1915-2005) left a profound legacy as a towering 20th-century American playwright, known for using gritty realism to explore the American Dream, morality, and social responsibility. His masterpieces, including Death of a Salesman (1949), The Crucible (1953), and All My Sons (1947), remain globally performed staples.

Key Aspects of Arthur Miller's Legacy:

- **Defining American Theater:** Miller is regarded as one of the greatest American dramatists, often focusing on ordinary individuals struggling against social and economic pressures.
- **Iconic Works:** *Death of a Salesman* (Pulitzer Prize winner) and *The Crucible* (an allegory for McCarthyism) are considered cornerstones of American literature.
- **Thematic Focus:** His plays often addressed themes of guilt, responsibility, the "American Dream," and the struggle for personal integrity.
- **Public Intellectual & Activist:** Miller stood up against the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), refusing to name names during the 1950s, which influenced *The Crucible*.
- **Honors and Recognition:** He received numerous awards, including multiple Tony Awards, and was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame.
- **Legacy Institution:** The [Arthur Miller Theatre at the University of Michigan](#) is the only theater in the world that bears his name.

Miller's work continues to resonate due to its exploration of the human condition and social conscience, solidifying his status as a critical voice in 20th-century drama.

Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coWRDfpqa6A>

Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe were married from June 1956 to January 1961, a high-profile union between a celebrated playwright and a Hollywood icon. Miller was drawn to her intelligence and vulnerability, while Monroe hoped for stability. The marriage, however, was plagued by Monroe's insecurities, health issues, and, ultimately, incompatibility.

Key Details of the Relationship:

- **Meeting:** They met in 1951 in Los Angeles but did not begin their relationship until 1955.
- **Marriage:**

They were married in a private, double ceremony (civil and Jewish) on June 29 and July 1, 1956
- **Challenges:** The relationship was strained by her addiction to prescription drugs, miscarriages, and the pressures of her fame, which took a toll on Miller's creative work.
- **The Misfits:** Miller wrote the screenplay for *The Misfits* (1961) specifically for her. The marriage dissolved during the filming of this movie, which was later described as a "terrible time".
- **Divorce:** Monroe filed for divorce in 1961, citing incompatibility.
- **Aftermath:** Miller often reflected on their time together, with his later works, such as *After the Fall*, being seen as reflections on their tumultuous relationship.

Miller, despite the difficulties, often praised her talent and saw her as a "seriously misunderstood" figure.



<https://arthurmillerfoundation.org>

We are on a mission to make arts education a RIGHT, not a privilege, for all public school students. To honor the legacy of the great American playwright, Arthur Miller, and his New York City public school education, the Arthur Miller Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality theater education to public school students by supporting public school theater teachers.

The Arthur Miller Foundation (AMF) increases equitable access to quality theater education for public school students by certifying and supporting teachers to build sustainable in-school theater programs. In-school theater instruction, provided by a full-time, certified theater teacher and included as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 public school education, ensures access to all, regardless of economic status.

<https://www.youtube.com/@arthurmillerfoundation/videos>

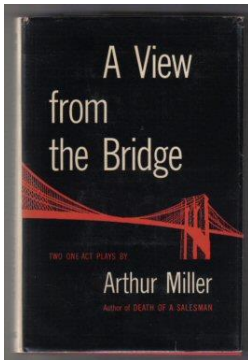
His Screenplays

"Films with screenplays by Arthur Miller"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_with_screenplays_by_Arthur_Miller

A View from the Bridge

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_View_from_the_Bridge

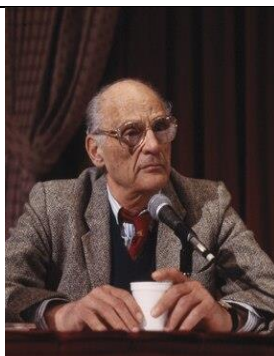


A View from the Bridge is a play by American playwright Arthur Miller. It was first staged on September 29, 1955, as a one-act verse drama with A Memory of Two Mondays at the Coronet Theatre on Broadway. The run was unsuccessful, and Miller subsequently revised and extended the play to contain two acts; this version is the one with which audiences are most familiar. The two-act version premiered in the New Watergate theatre club in London's West End under the direction of Peter Brook on October 11, 1956.

The play is set in 1950s America, in an Italian-American neighborhood near the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. It employs a chorus and narrator in the character of Alfieri. Eddie, the tragic protagonist, has an improper love for, and almost an obsession with, Catherine, his wife Beatrice's orphaned niece, so he does not approve of her courtship of Beatrice's cousin Rodolpho. Miller's interest in writing about the world of the New York docks originated with an unproduced screenplay that he developed with Elia Kazan in the early 1950s (titled The Hook) that addressed corruption on the Brooklyn docks. Kazan later directed On the Waterfront, which dealt with the same subject.



Miller and Marilyn Monroe tie the knot in Westchester County, New York, June 1956



Miller at the 1986 PEN Congress



Arthur Miller's Screenplay 'The Hook' Finds a Home Onstage.



Awards received

Pulitzer Prize for Drama 1949

Death of a Salesman

Tony Award for Best Play 1953, 1949

The Crucible, Death of a Salesman

Laurence Olivier The Londoner Award for Best New Play 1995

Broken Glass

Kennedy Center Honors 1984

Princess of Asturias Award for Literature 2002

Jerusalem Prize for the Freedom of the Individual in Society 2003

Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement 1999

Jefferson Lecture 2001

Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Revival 1998

All My Sons

Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie 1981

Playing for Time

St. Louis Literary Award 1980

Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American Letters 2001

New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play 1947

All My Sons

Tony Award for Best Author 1949, 1947

Death of a Salesman, All My Sons

Honorary Molière Award 1999

Primetime Emmy Award for Special Classification Of Individual Achievements 1967

Death of a Salesman

American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for Drama 1959

Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement 1998

Obie Award for Best Revival 1958

The Crucible

Evelyn F. Burkey Award 1994

PEN/Laura Pels Theater Award 1998



ROBERT LOWELL

(1917-1977)

"I'm sure that writing isn't a craft, that is, something for which you learn the skills and go on turning out. It must come from some deep impulse, deep inspiration. That can't be taught, it can't be what you use in teaching."

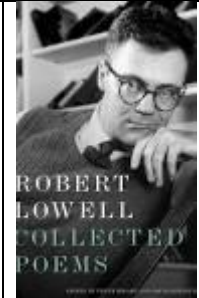
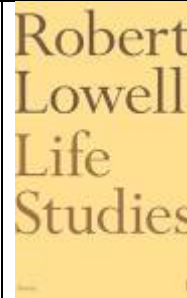
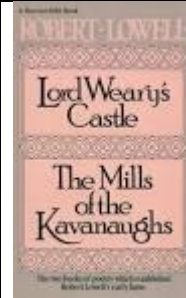
Confessional Poetry

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessional_poetry

Confessional poetry or "**Confessionalism**" is a style of poetry that emerged in the United States during the late 1950s and early 1960s. It is sometimes classified as a form of **Postmodernism**. It has been described as poetry of the personal or "I", focusing on extreme moments of individual experience, the psyche, and personal trauma, including previously and occasionally still taboo matters such as mental illness, sexuality, and suicide, often set in relation to broader social themes.

The confessional poet's engagement with personal experience has been explained by literary critics as an effort to distance oneself from the horrifying social realities of the twentieth century. Events like [the Holocaust](#), the [Cold War](#), and existential threat brought by the [proliferation of nuclear weapons](#) had made public matters daunting for both confessional poets and their readers. The confessional poets also worked in opposition to the idealization of domesticity in the 1950s, by revealing unhappiness in their own homes.

The school of "confessional poetry" was associated with poets who redefined American poetry in the 1950s and 1960s, including [Robert Lowell](#), [Sylvia Plath](#), [John Berryman](#), [Anne Sexton](#), and [W. D. Snodgrass](#).



Web Links for Books

01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/36912.Robert_Lowell

02] <https://us.macmillan.com/author/robertlowell>

03] <https://poets.org/poet/robert-lowell>

04]

https://books.google.co.in/books/about/Robert_Lowell.html?id=WLIYf7Jz1q4C&redir_esc=y

His Legacy

Robert Lowell (1917-1977) left a profound legacy as a transformative American poet who pioneered "confessional poetry" through intensely personal, candid works like *Life Studies* (1959). A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, he blended rigorous formal technique with intimate explorations of mental illness, family, and politics, influencing generations of writers.

Key aspects of Lowell's legacy include:

- **Pioneer of Confessionalism:** His 1959 collection *Life Studies* shifted American poetry toward autobiographical, raw, and psychologically intense subject matter, breaking away from impersonal Modernism.
- **Theatrical & Formal Style:** Initially known for the dense, symbolic, and traditional meters of *Lord Weary's Castle* (1946), his style evolved to be more conversational and free in later works, while retaining a strong, calculated craft.
- **Poet-Historian:** Lowell often blended personal, familial, and national history, critiquing American society and politics, notably in *For the Union Dead*.
- **Impact on Contemporary Poetry:** His work paved the way for poets to explore intimate, traumatic experiences with honesty, influencing contemporaries like Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton.
- **Cultural Significance:** Despite battling mental illness (manic depression), he remained a central, authoritative figure in 20th-century American letters.

His work continued to influence literature through his explorations of identity and the "restless center" of the American experience.

Some Useful Web Links

01] <https://poets.org/book/life-studies>

02] <https://newcriterion.com/article/the-achievement-of-robert-lowell/>

03] <https://hudsonreview.com/2017/07/more-than-just-a-partial-view-of-robert-lowell/>

04] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/blog/uncategorized/53924/life-studies-by-robert-lowell-revisited->

05] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/robert-lowell/_/N-30x6

Awards

Pulitzer Prize for Poetry 1974, 1947
The Dolphin, Lord Weary's Castle

National Book Award for Poetry 1960
Life Studies

United States Poet Laureate 1947

Obie Award for Best New American Play 1965

The Old Glory

Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts, US & Canada 1947

National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry 1977

Day by Day

Ambassador Book Award for American Arts and Letters 1988

Collected Prose

Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Playwright 1965

The Old Glory

Videos

01] Robert Lowell documentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvhr_7WnTu0 [57:04]

Robert Traill Spence Lowell IV (March 1, 1917 – September 12, 1977) was an American poet. He was born into a Boston Brahmin family that could trace its origins back to the Mayflower. His family, past and present, were important subjects in his poetry. Growing up in Boston also informed his poems, which were frequently set in Boston and the New England region. The literary scholar Paula Hayes believes that Lowell mythologized New England, particularly in his early work.

02] Robert Lowell Memorial Lecture: Seamus Heaney

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emuYwWT7s4A> [1:09:13]

Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney gives Boston University's semiannual Lowell Lecture, joined by David Ferry, an Arts and Sciences lecturer in creative writing, and Peter Campion (GRS'00) for a reading and book signing.

03] Natasha Trethewey, Megan Fernandes - Robert Lowell Memorial Poetry Reading

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqSSQ8DdK_U [1:32:22]

04] Naomi Shihab Nye, Katherine Hollander - Robert Lowell Memorial Poetry Reading

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8mIZi7GGyk> [1:02:57]

05] Robert Lowell - "Life Studies"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3icz_ASHig [30:26]

We discuss the pathbreaking work of American poet Robert Lowell, and do a close reading of the poem "Skunk Hour". We also consider the uniqueness of this style of poetry while also situating it in the post-war slump of the 1950s that almost necessitated a kind of poetry as revealing as Lowell's self-portraiture in the poem.

06] Elizabeth Bishop Reads Robert Lowell (1978)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji1Lx_2ryd8 [40:50]

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J.D. SALINGER (1919-2010)

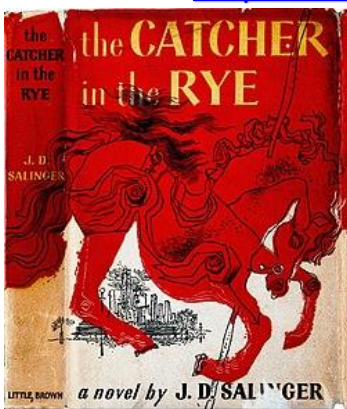
"I was about half in love with her by the time we sat down. That's the thing about girls. Every time they do something pretty... you fall half in love with them, and then you never know where the hell you are."

Compiled by:

Surya Kumar AS <::> Reg No. 253313121002

The Catcher in the Rye

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Catcher_in_the_Rye



The Catcher in the Rye is a 1951 American coming-of-age novel by American author J. D. Salinger. It was partially published in serial form in 1945-46 before being novelized in 1951. Originally intended for adults, it is often read by adolescents for its themes of angst and alienation, and as a critique of superficiality in society. The novel also deals with themes of innocence, identity, belonging, loss, connection, sex, and depression. The main character, Holden Caulfield, has become an icon for teenage rebellion. Caulfield, nearly of age, gives his opinion on a wide variety of topics as he narrates his recent life events.

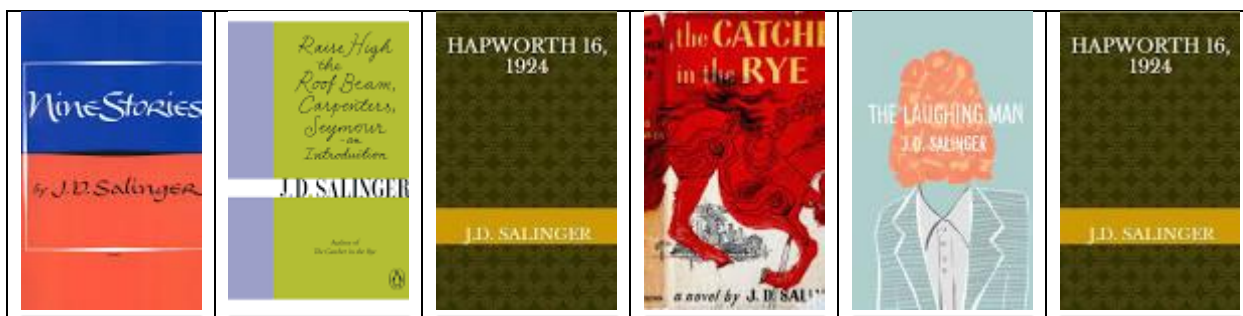
The Catcher in the Rye has been translated widely. About one million copies are sold each year, with total sales of more than 65 million books. The novel was included on *Time*'s 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels written since 1923, and it was named by Modern Library and its readers as one of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. In 2003, it was listed at number 15 on the BBC's survey "The Big Read".

His Legacy

J.D. Salinger's (1919-2010) legacy is defined by *The Catcher in the Rye*—an iconic, 65-million-copy bestseller defining adolescent angst—and his deliberate, decades-long withdrawal from public life. He influenced modern literature with themes of alienation and the Glass family saga. His fierce protection of his work created a "literary hermit" mystique.

Key Aspects of Salinger's Legacy

- **Literary Impact:** *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951) remains a seminal work on teenage rebellion and non-conformity, selling roughly 200,000 copies annually. Beyond *Catcher*, his *Nine Stories* (1953) and works focusing on the eccentric Glass family (e.g., *Franny and Zooey*) are highly regarded for their depth and, later, spiritual themes.
- **The Reclusive Persona:** Following the massive success of *Catcher*, Salinger withdrew from public view in 1953 to a home in Cornish, New Hampshire, ceasing publication in 1965. This self-imposed exile transformed him into a legendary figure, with his silence often deemed as significant as his writing.
- **Influence on Authors:** Salinger's style and themes influenced numerous writers, including Haruki Murakami, John Green, and Stephen Chbosky. His work is noted for shaping, as [Jeff Kinney](#) described, characters that are "descended from Holden Caulfield".
- **Protection of Intellectual Property:** Salinger was notoriously protective of his work, legally blocking unauthorized sequels or adaptations. This led to a "miserly" reputation regarding his control over his intellectual property, as noted by [The Economist](#).
- **Posthumous Works:** Following his death in 2010, control of his estate passed to his wife and son, with indications that unpublished, heavily guarded writings may eventually be released.



Web Links or Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/819789.J_D_Salinger
- 02] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/10691/j-d-salinger>
- 03] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/j-d-salinger/_/N-2kar
- 04] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/j-d-salinger/>
- 05] https://www.betterworldbooks.com/author/j-d-salinger/6546?srsIid=AfmBOopbqyw6Pv0FfDDGHCxZugbrqj4UhvTErs53htsZzKk3jXfc2_V-

His Biography

J.D. Salinger (1919-2010) was an influential American author best known for his 1951 novel *The Catcher in the Rye*, which became a cultural touchstone for teenage angst and alienation. After serving in World War II, which heavily influenced his work, he became known for his reclusive life in Cornish, New Hampshire, publishing little after the 1960s.

Early Life and Education

- **Birth:** Born Jerome David Salinger on January 1, 1919, in New York City to a Jewish father and a Christian mother.
- **Education:** Attended schools in Manhattan and was sent to Valley Forge Military Academy (the inspiration for Pencey Prep in *Catcher*), graduating in 1936.
- **Writing Beginnings:** Attended NYU and Columbia University, where he began writing short stories.

Military Service and Early Career

- **WWII:** Served in the U.S. Army (1942–1946), participating in the D-Day invasion and the liberation of Paris.
- **Writing During War:** He reportedly carried a typewriter in his jeep, continuing to write during his service.
- **Early Success:** His story "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" was published in *The New Yorker* in 1948, marking his breakthrough.

The Catcher in the Rye and Later Life

- **Major Work:** *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951) was an immediate bestseller, defining the post-WWII generation with its protagonist, Holden Caulfield.
- **Reclusion:** Following the book's success, Salinger moved to Cornish, New Hampshire, becoming increasingly private.
- **Other Works:** Published *Nine Stories* (1953), *Franny and Zooey* (1961), and *Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction* (1963).
- **Personal Life:** Married twice, first to Sylvia (a brief post-war marriage) and later to Claire Douglas (1955–1967), with whom he had two children, Margaret and Matthew.
- **Death:** Passed away of natural causes on January 27, 2010, at age 91.

Legacy

Salinger's work, known for its focus on youth, irony, and spiritual themes, continues to be highly influential. Posthumous reports suggest a significant amount of unpublished work may exist.

His Education

J.D. Salinger's education was marked by early academic disinterest, leading him to attend the McBurney School and graduate from Valley Forge Military Academy (1936). He briefly attended NYU, studied in Vienna, and took writing courses at Ursinus College and Columbia University, where he was mentored by Whit Burnett.

Key Details of Salinger's Education and Early Life:

- **Early Education:** Attended public schools in Manhattan and the [McBurney School](#).
- **Military Academy:** Attended Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania (1934–1936), where he edited the yearbook and began writing.
- **Higher Education:**
 - **NYU:** Attended for one year (1937).
 - [Ursinus College](#): Attended in 1938, where he wrote a column for the student newspaper.
 - **Columbia University:** Enrolled in a night class taught by Whit Burnett, who became a crucial mentor and encouraged his writing career.
- **Informal Education:** Spent time in Vienna, Austria, and Poland in 1937 to learn the import/export business, though he focused more on language.

Salinger did not graduate from college, leaving to pursue writing full-time.

Videos

01] Franny and Zooey (but mostly "Franny") by J. D. Salinger

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_iEaV7srtA [1:35:02]

02] "The Catcher In The Rye" by J.D. Salinger presented by Vandana Walia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx-JVxOWYZc> [54:56]

03] Ninety-Nine Novels: The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iX_1Yctumk [49:35]

04] The Hidden Life of J.D. Salinger with Stephen B. Shepard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90cwUbNGXlg> 56:33]

05] The Catcher in the Rye - JD Salinger - Sadie - 52 Books in 52 Weeks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3K1645ZYjs> [30:44]

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JACK KEROUAC

(1922-1969)

"I like too many things and get all confused and hung-up running from one falling star to another till i drop. This is the night, what it does to you. I had nothing to offer anybody except my own confusion."



Jack Kerouac's birthplace, 9 Lupine Road, 2nd floor, West Centralville, Lowell, Massachusetts.



Jack Kerouac lived with his parents for a time above a corner drug store in Ozone Park (now a flower shop), while writing some of his earliest work.



House in College Park in Orlando, Florida, where Kerouac lived and wrote The Dharma Bums.

His Style of Writing

Jack Kerouac's writing style, known as "spontaneous prose" or "spontaneous bop prosody," is characterized by a rapid, stream-of-consciousness flow that mimics jazz improvisation. It emphasizes raw emotion, uninhibited thought, long sentences, and a disregard for traditional punctuation or editing to capture the immediate, authentic truth of experience.

Key Characteristics of Kerouac's Style

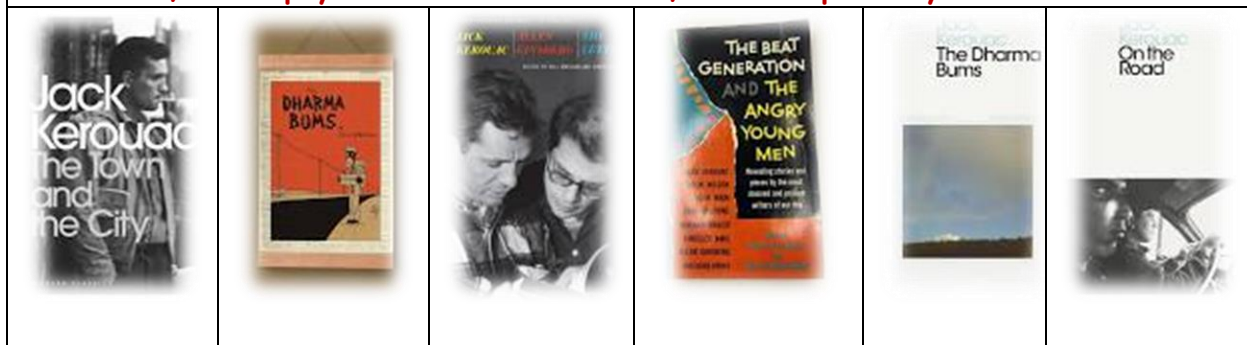
- **Spontaneous Prose:** Writing as thinking rather than writing about thinking; a continuous flow of ideas without pausing.
- **Jazz Influence:** Inspired by Bebop musicians, he aimed to create music with words, utilizing rhythm and breath to structure sentences.
- **Disregard for Conventional Rules:** He discouraged traditional punctuation, such as periods, in favor of dashes that allow the prose to flow uninterrupted.

- **"First thought, best thought":** He believed in capturing the initial, raw impression, rejecting the need for extensive rewriting or revision.
- **Themes:** His work frequently explored themes of restlessness, the "road," Buddhism, spirituality, and 1940s/50s youth culture.

Key Techniques

- **Sketched Language:** Describing scenes in real-time, focusing on the sensory details of the moment.
- **Stream of Consciousness:** A free-association style where one thought leads to the next without strict, premeditated structure.
- **Personal and Intimate:** Written from a deeply personal, often autobiographical, perspective, encouraging a direct, often "telepathic" connection with the reader.

His most famous work, *On the Road*, was famously typed on a single, continuous 120-foot scroll, which physicalized this relentless, uninterrupted style.



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jack-Kerouac>
- 02] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Kerouac_bibliography
- 03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/jack-kerouac/>
- 04] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/15492/jack-kerouac/>
- 05] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/jack-kerouac>
- 06] <https://www.litkicks.com/Lists/KerouacWorks.html>
- 07] <https://jackkerouac.com/pages/books-2>

- "Put down the pen someone else gave you.
No one ever drafted a life worth living on borrowed ink."
- "Nothing behind me, everything ahead of me, as is ever so on the road."
- "Practice kindness all day to everybody and you will realize you're already in heaven now."
- "I realized either I was crazy or the world was crazy; and I picked on the world. And of course I was right."

His Movies

Key Jack Kerouac movies include adaptations of his novels, notably On the Road (2012) and Big Sur (2013), as well as the short film Pull My Daisy (1959) which he narrated. Documentaries exploring his life include What Happened to Kerouac? (1985) and Jack Kerouac: King of the Beats (1985).

Key Adaptations & Films

- **On the Road (2012):** Directed by Walter Salles, this feature film adapts Kerouac's most famous novel, featuring an ensemble cast including Sam Riley, Garrett Hedlund, and Kristen Stewart.
- **Big Sur (2013):** Directed by Michael Polish, this film adapts the novel based on Kerouac's time in California, starring Jean-Marc Barr.
- **Pull My Daisy (1959):** A short, influential film featuring Beats like Allen Ginsberg and Gregory Corso, narrated by Kerouac himself.
- **The Subterraneans (1960):** A film adaptation of his 1958 novella.
- **Kill Your Darlings (2013):** Features Daniel Radcliffe as Allen Ginsberg and Dane DeHaan as Lucien Carr, focusing on the early days of the Beat Generation, including a young Jack Kerouac.

Documentaries & Short Films

- **What Happened to Kerouac? (1985):** A definitive documentary featuring interviews with his contemporaries.
- **Jack Kerouac: King of the Beats (1985):** A documentary with dramatic recreations of his life.
- **The Source (1999):** A documentary on the Beat Generation.
- **Ferlinghetti: A Rebirth of Wonder (2009):** Explores the life of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, with appearances/mention of Kerouac.

The Beat Hotel (2012): Examines the Paris hotel where Beat writers lived.

Other Appearances

- **Couch (1964):** An Andy Warhol film featuring early Beats.
- **Sonic Youth: Teenage Riot (1988):** Features footage referencing Kerouac.

01] Jack Kerouac, On the Road

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kgGrgF3JhQ> [47:47]

02] A celebration of Jack Kerouac and his local legacy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uESPMCAjZOs> [43:48]

03] The Unknown Kerouac

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rdszd_zgRgo [59:40]

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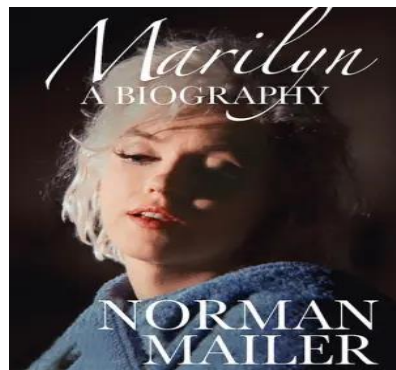
Norman Mailer (1923-2007)

"Each day a few more lies eat into the seed with which we are born, little institutional lies from the print of newspapers, the shock waves of television, and the sentimental cheats of the movie screen.."

Marilyn: A Biography

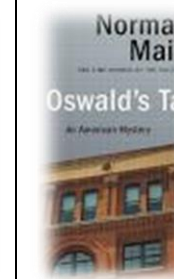
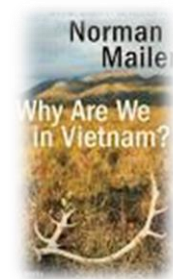
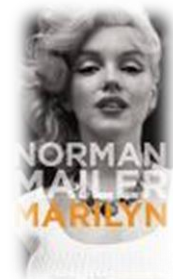
by Norman Mailer

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/416069/marilyn-by-norman-mailer/9780753541258>



In 1973, Norman Mailer published *Marilyn*, his celebrated in-depth account of the life of Marilyn Monroe, as a glossy, fully illustrated coffee-table tome. His work was immediately acclaimed - and an enduring bestseller, rumoured to have sold more copies than any of his other works except *The Naked and the Dead*. Yet, until now, it has never been made available in an accessible mass-market paperback edition.

This is one of America's greatest writers taking on the legend of one of Hollywood's greatest stars.



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/74056.Best_of_Norman_Mailer
- 02] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/160875/norman-mailer>
- 03] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/norman-mailer/_/N-2kih
- 04] <https://normanmailer.us/the-10-best-norman-mailer-books-107b23e12118>
- 05] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Mailer_bibliography

MARILYN: A Biography, by Norman Mailer (a Book summary)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gCS5jKVVyc [19:19]

His Legacy

Norman Mailer's legacy is a complex mix of pioneering literary journalism and profound cultural controversy. A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner known for *The Naked and the Dead* and *The Executioner's Song*, he helped define the "New Journalism" of the 1960s. However, his legacy is often sharply reassessed due to his volatile persona, misogynistic views, and a 1960 incident where he stabbed his wife.

Key Aspects of His Legacy:

- **Literary Giants:** He was a prolific novelist, essayist, and pioneer of "nonfiction novels" that combined journalistic accuracy with narrative flair, such as *The Armies of the Night*.
- **New Journalism Pioneer:** Mailer was a leader in using first-person, immersive journalism to analyze American culture, politics, and the Vietnam War.
- **Polarizing Figure:** His career was marked by extreme public behavior, including fights with peers, radical views on gender, and three arrests, making him a contentious figure even during his lifetime.
- **Enduring Relevance:** Despite criticism, his work on power, violence, and fear is still studied for its insight into 20th-century American life.
- **Academic Study:** The Norman Mailer Society and various conferences continue to analyze his work, which has been described as having an "uncompromising" and "forceful" style.

His legacy is frequently debated, pitting his undeniable talent as a writer against his violent and, at times, misogynistic personal history.

Videos

01] Richard Bradford, "Tough Guy: The Life of Norman Mailer" (Bloomsbury, 2023)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39Qga3w_Dog [1:09:24]

02] Culture Connection: "How To Come Alive with Norman Mailer" with the Award-Winning Filmmaker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXdIURCxsm8> [59:55]

03] Norman Mailer interview (1991)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZik_ZaF4sM [35:27]

Awards

Norman Mailer (1923–2007) was a decorated American author who won two Pulitzer Prizes (1969, 1980), the National Book Award (1969), and the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (2005). He was a prolific innovator of "New Journalism" blending fiction and non-fiction.

Key Awards and Recognition:

- Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction (1969): *The Armies of the Night*.
- National Book Award (1969): *The Armies of the Night* (Arts and Letters category).
- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1980): *The Executioner's Song*.
- National Book Award for Contemporary Affairs (1969): *Miami and the Siege of Chicago*.
- Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (2005): Awarded by the National Book Foundation.

Mailer was nominated for several other National Book Awards, including for *Why Are We in Vietnam?* (1968) and *The Naked and the Dead* (1949). Additionally, the Norman Mailer Prize was established in 2009 to honor his legacy.

Film Maker

In addition to his experimental fiction and nonfiction novels, Mailer produced a play version of *The Deer Park* (staged at the Theatre De Lys in Greenwich Village in 1967), which had a four-month run and generally good reviews. In 2007, months before he died, he re-wrote the script, and asked his son Michael, a film producer, to film a staged production in Provincetown, but had to cancel because of his declining health. Mailer obsessed over *The Deer Park* more than he did over any other work.

Mailer took on an acting role in the 1981 Miloš Forman film version of E.L. Doctorow's novel Ragtime, playing Stanford White. In 1999, he played Harry Houdini in Matthew Barney's Cremaster 2, which was inspired by the events surrounding the life of Gary Gilmore.

01] <https://harvardfilmarchive.org/collections/norman-mailer-collection>

02] <https://slate.com/culture/2012/08/norman-mailers-movies-revisiting-maidstone-wild-90-and-beyond-the-law.html>

03] <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/richard-brody/norman-mailer-at-the-movies>



FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925-1964)

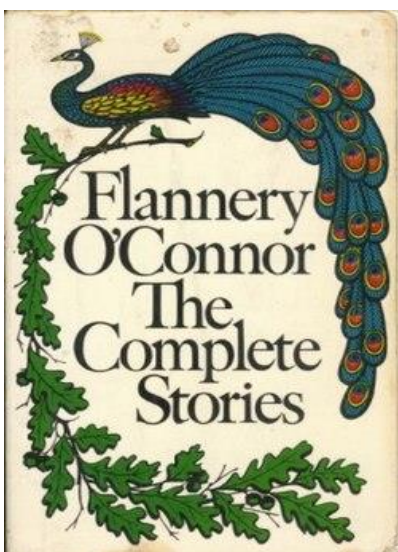
"Where you come from is gone, where you thought, you were going to never was there, and where you are is no good unless you can get away from it"

Compiled by:

Jemima Rachel J <::> Reg No. 243313111001

The Complete Stories

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Complete_Stories_\(O'Connor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Complete_Stories_(O'Connor))



The Complete Stories is a collection of short stories by Flannery O'Connor. It was published in 1971 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. It comprises all the stories in *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* and *Everything That Rises Must Converge* plus several previously unavailable stories.

Complete Stories won the 1972 U.S. National Book Award for Fiction. Internet visitors named it the "Best of the National Book Awards" as part of the Fiction Award's 60th anniversary celebration in 2009, voting on a ballot of the best six award winners selected by writers associated with the Foundation.

Tributes

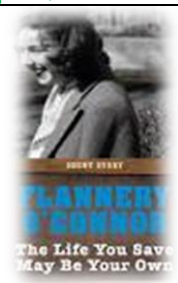
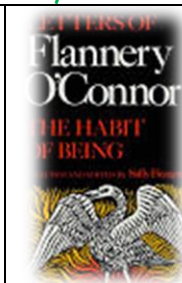
Tributes to Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964), a master of Southern Gothic literature known for *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*, often highlight her profound Catholic faith, dark humor, and unflinching examination of grace and human flaw. The 2025 centenary celebrations in Georgia (Savannah and Milledgeville) honor her legacy with festivals, tours of Andalusia Farm, and author events.

Key Tributes and Reflections

Centennial Celebration (100th Birthday): In March 2025, events included the Andalusia Music Festival, guided tours of her Georgia home, a birthday cake, and gatherings of scholars and fans.

- **Literary Legacy:** She is celebrated as a "genius" of Southern Gothic, with her short stories and novels, such as *Wise Blood*, analyzed for their exploration of the sacred through shocking, violent, or grotesque, yet deeply spiritual, narratives.
- **Religious Vision:** Tributes often focus on her role as a "Witness to the Catholic Church" featuring her essays and 100+ book reviews for diocesan newspapers, which highlighted her deep intellectual engagement with theology.
- **Literary Impact:** Writers and critics celebrate her ability to create memorable, often unlikable characters, with her work described as a "master class" in storytelling.
- **Cultural Focus:** She is remembered for her unique voice, described as a "Southern writer [who] can out-write anybody... because [she] has the Bible, and a little history".
- **Controversy and Nuance:** Recent tributes also engage with her complex legacy, including her racial views, and the discovery of her previously unknown artwork.

O'Connor's work continues to be regarded as essential, with her stories focusing on stripping away illusions to reveal a deeper, often divine, reality.



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/22694.Flannery_O_Connor
- 02] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flannery_O%27Connor_bibliography
- 03] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/22487/flannery-oconnor/>
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/flannery-oconnor/_/N-2k94
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/flannery-oconnor/>
- 06] <https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb/collections/author-books-by-flannery-o-connor>

Timeline

Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) was a preeminent American Southern Gothic writer known for her devout Catholic themes, dark humor, and grotesque characters. Diagnosed with lupus at 25, she produced acclaimed novels *Wise Blood* (1952) and *The Violent Bear It Away* (1960), along with numerous short stories, before dying at age 39.

Early Life and Education

- **March 25, 1925:** Born in Savannah, Georgia, to Regina Cline and Edward F. O'Connor.
- **1938:** Moved with her family to Milledgeville, Georgia.
- **Feb 1, 1941:** Her father died of systemic lupus erythematosus.
- **1942–1945:** Attended Georgia State College for Women (GSCW), graduating with a B.A. in sociology and English literature.
- **1945–1947:** Attended the University of Iowa, initially for journalism, then switched to the Iowa Writers' Workshop, receiving her MFA in 1947.

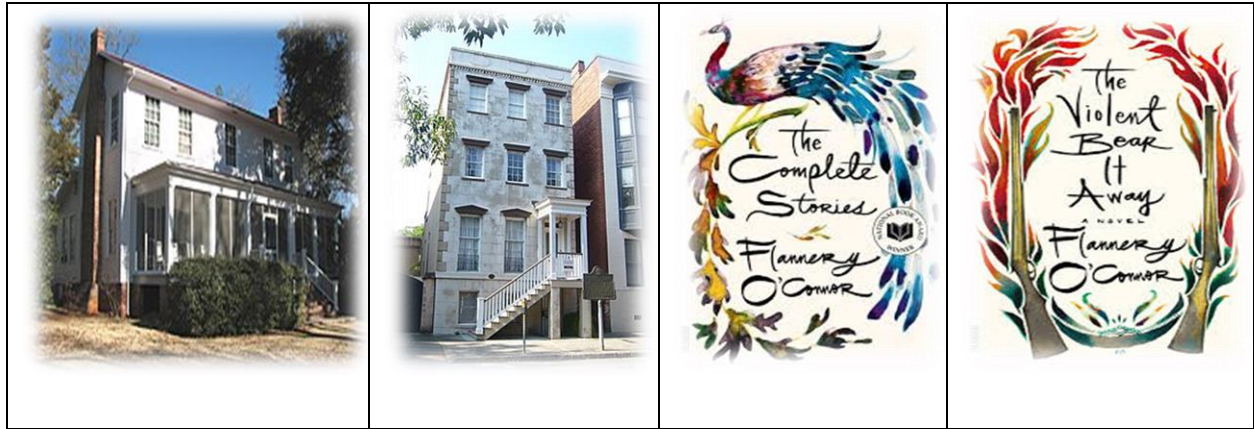
Career and Health

- **1946:** Published her first short story "The Geranium" in *Accent*.
- **1948–1949:** Spent time writing at the Yaddo artists' colony in New York.
- **1950:** Diagnosed with lupus, the same disease that killed her father.
- **1951:** Moved to Andalusia Farm in Milledgeville with her mother due to deteriorating health.
- **1952:** Published her first novel *Wise Blood*.
- **1955:** Published the short story collection *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*.
- **1960:** Published her second novel *The Violent Bear It Away*.
- **1964:** Published *Everything That Rises Must Converge*.

Death and Legacy

- **August 3, 1964:** Died in Milledgeville, GA, at age 39 following surgery that reactivated her lupus.
- **1972:** *The Complete Stories* was published posthumously, winning the National Book Award.
- **1979:** Her letters were published as *The Habit of Being*.

Andalusia Farm, where she lived, is now a museum dedicated to her life and work.



Videos

01] Flannery O'Connor: The Complete Stories

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOftJHBs_vE [25:27]

02] Who was Flannery O'Connor?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATzgVI2LT0c> [52:18]

Mary Flannery O'Connor was an American novelist, short story writer, and essayist whose work is often described as "Southern Gothic," a style which has left many readers scratching their heads, as they come across her grotesque characters who are often in violent situations — none of which match the life of their author, a devout Catholic. "Flannery," as she was known, had begun making a major impact on the American literary landscape when she died in 1964 at 39 of the same disease that had taken her father just shy of her 16th birthday.

03] Flannery O'Connor, with Prof. Mary Johnson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0JDbQWIkTw> [50:28]

04] An Introduction to Flannery O'Connor

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yH3_Hj4QynQ {1:30:16}

This week on The Literary Life podcast, Angelina and Thomas bring us the first of a two-part series on the oft-requested, oft-misunderstood author, Flannery O'Connor. They begin by sharing their commonplace quotes for this week, which leads into the topic of O'Connor, the controversial mid-century southern American author. Angelina gives us a look at Flannery's early life and education, then her adult life and writing career. She also talks about southern culture and Christianity, as well as ways in which O'Connor's work is misunderstood by so many people. Thomas highlights the genre of Southern Gothic literature, and Angelina pushes back on that oversimplification of O'Connor, arguing that she is actually writing in the medieval tradition. Join us back here next week as we discuss O'Connor's short story, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find."

05] Understanding Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories, Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Sm-N3UGaY8> [42:53]

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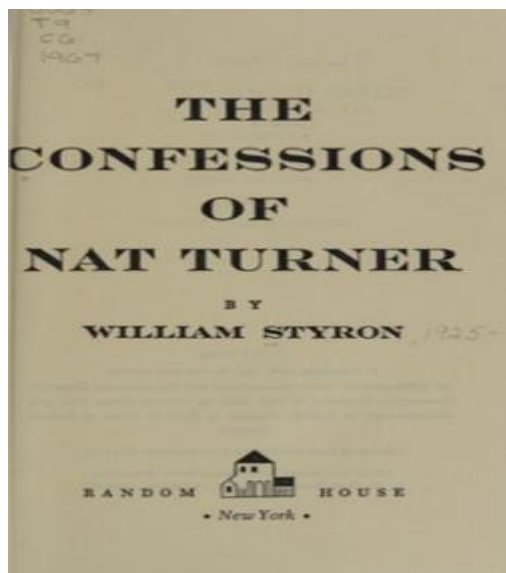
WILLIAM STYRON

(1925-2006)

" Depression is a disorder of mood, so mysteriously painful and elusive in the way it becomes known to the self -- to the mediating intellect-- as to verge close to being beyond description. It thus remains nearly incomprehensible to those who have not experienced it in its extreme mode."

The Confessions of Nat Turner

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Confessions_of_Nat_Turner



The Confessions of Nat Turner is a 1968 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by American writer William Styron. Presented as a first-person narrative by historical figure Nat Turner, the novel concerns Nat Turner's Rebellion in Virginia in 1831 but does not always depict the events accurately. It is based on *The Confessions of Nat Turner: The Leader of the Late Insurrection in Southampton, Virginia, a first-hand account of Turner's confessions published by a local lawyer, Thomas R. Gray, in 1831.*

Time Magazine included the novel in its **TIME 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005.**

His Legacy

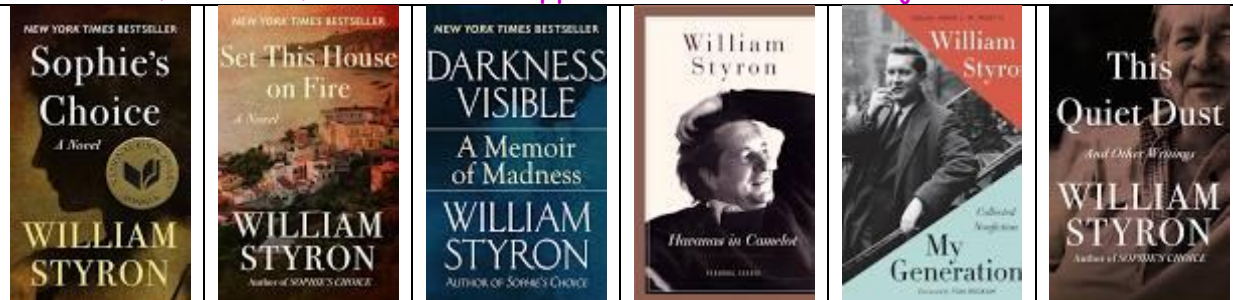
William Styron (1925-2006) left a legacy as a major 20th-century American novelist known for tackling heavy moral, historical, and psychological themes with intense, lyrical prose. His key works, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967) and *Sophie's Choice* (1979), established his reputation for exploring slavery, the Holocaust, and depression. While acclaimed for his literary ambition, his legacy is also marked by significant controversy regarding his portrayal of race and, later, his candid memoir of mental illness**Darkness Visible**.

Key Aspects of Styron's Legacy:

- **Major Literary Contributions:** His debut**Lie Down in Darkness** (1951), garnered early acclaim, followed by a career that earned him the National Medal of Arts.

- **Historical Controversies:** *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967) won a Pulitzer but caused severe backlash from Black critics and writers who argued that a white author could not accurately represent the voice of a 19th-century slave.
- **Impact on Mental Health Awareness:** His 1990 memoir *Darkness Visible*, is highly regarded for its honest, inside account of clinical depression, helping to destigmatize mental illness by framing it as a physical disease rather than a character flaw.
- **Thematic Focus:** His writing consistently focused on intense suffering, guilt, and moral responsibility, often featuring themes of suicide and the "human condition".
- **Cultural Impact:** The 1982 film adaptation of *Sophie's Choice*, starring Meryl Streep, solidified his work in popular culture.

Styron's work is remembered for its emotional power, though it remains debated due to his, at times, controversial approach to sensitive subject matter.



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL31872A/William_Styron
- 02] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/william-styron/>
- 03] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/sitemap/>
- 04] <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/s/william-styron/>
- 05] <https://www.storytel.com/tv/ebooks>

Awards

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1968

The Confessions of Nat Turner

Prix mondial Cino Del Duca 1985

St. Louis Literary Award 1982

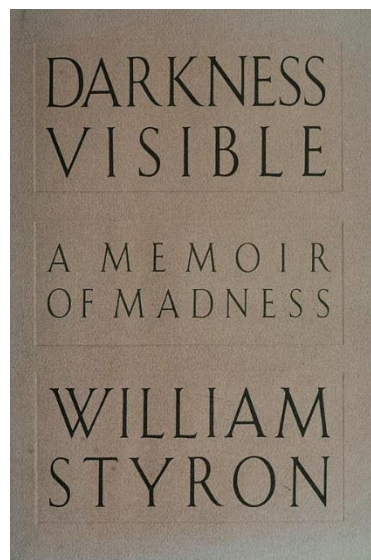
Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service for Outstanding Achievement in Literature 1995

National Book Award for Fiction (Hardcover) 1980

Sophie's Choice

Darkness Visible (Memoir)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darkness_Visible_\(memoir\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darkness_Visible_(memoir))



Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness is a memoir by American writer [William Styron](#) about his descent into [depression](#) and the triumph of recovery. It is among the last books published by Styron and is among his most celebrated.

First published in December 1989 in [Vanity Fair](#), the book grew out of a lecture that Styron originally delivered at a symposium on affective disorders at the Department of Psychiatry of the [Johns Hopkins School of Medicine](#).

Through the employment of anecdotes, speculation, and reportage, Styron reflects on the causes and effects of depression, drawing links between his own illness and that of other writers and public figures.

Videos

01] The light and darkness of famed novelist William Styron

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1qEf93rHzY> [1:08:25]

In the spotlight is William Styron, the famed author of novels that included "Sophie's Choice" and "The Confessions of Nat Turner." Joining the great author in the spotlight is William Styron biographer Jim West, professor of English, emeritus, at Pennsylvania State University. He is a biographer and book historian, and the author of several books, including "William Styron: A Life."

02] Book Review: William Styron's The Confessions of Nat Turner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gn6-VrlW3Cw> [34:50]

03] William Styron lecture on War and Racism in America (1997)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVOPMRE6BOg> [39:21]

04] The Paris Review Interview Series: William Styron

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wc1rPBE_XbA [1:10:32]

This conversation between George Plimpton and William Styron, part of a collaboration between 92Y's Unterberg Poetry Center and The Paris Review, was recorded live at 92Y on December 8, 1997. We are able to share this recording thanks to a generous gift in memory of Christopher Lightfoot Walker, longtime friend of the Poetry Center and The Paris Review.

05] Rose Styron - Selected Letters of William Styron

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tgwc_QR9jzw [32:42]

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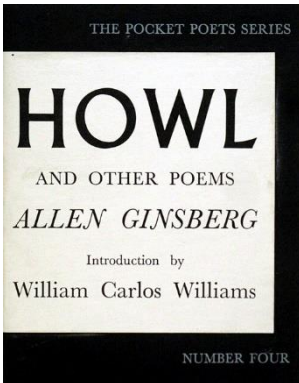
ALLEN GINSBERG

(1926-1997)

"I believe that we are put here in human form to decipher the hieroglyphs of love and suffering. And, there is no degree of love or intensity of feeling that does not bring with it the possibility of a crippling hurt. But, it is a duty to take that risk and love without reserve or defense."

Howl (Poem)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howl_\(poem\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howl_(poem))



"Howl", also known as "Howl for Carl Solomon", is a poem written by Allen Ginsberg in 1954-1955 and published in his 1956 collection, Howl and Other Poems. The poem is dedicated to Carl Solomon.

Ginsberg began work on "Howl" in autumn of 1954. He performed the poem at the Six Gallery reading in San Francisco in October 1955. Fellow poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti of City Lights Books, who attended the performance, published the work in 1956. Upon the book's release, Ferlinghetti and the City Lights Bookstore manager, Shigeyoshi Murao, were charged with disseminating obscene literature, and both were arrested. On October 3, 1957, Judge Clayton W. Horn ruled that the poem was not obscene.

Although highly controversial at first, and excluded for years from the academic canon, "Howl" has gradually come to be regarded as a great work of twentieth-century American literature. The poem is also closely associated with the group of writers known as the Beat Generation.

Beat Generation

Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997) was a central, defining poet of the Beat Generation, a 1950s counter-culture movement that rejected conformist American post-war social conventions, materialism, and censorship. Famous for his 1956 poem "Howl" Ginsberg advocated for sexual liberation, Eastern philosophy, and anti-war causes.

Key aspects of Ginsberg and the Beat Generation include:

- **"Howl" and Obscenity:** His iconic poem "Howl" which opens with "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness" became a symbol of

rebellion and led to a landmark 1957 obscenity trial that his publisher won, crucial for freedom of expression.

- **Key Relationships:**

Ginsberg formed the core of the Beats at Columbia University with Jack Kerouac (who coined "Beat") and William S. Burroughs

Literary Style: Inspired by Walt Whitman, jazz, and Buddhism, his work used long-lined "bardic" breath to create raw, emotional, and authentic poetry.

- **Counterculture Impact:** Ginsberg was a, if not the, leading figure of the movement, influencing the 1960s hippie counterculture through his political activism and anti-establishment stance.

- **Legacy:** He was a co-founder of the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa University.

Ginsberg's work aimed to transform poetry into an expression of raw, lived experience, directly tackling taboo topics and critiquing the American mainstream.

Some Important Web Links

01] <https://poets.org/poet/allen-ginsberg>

02] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/allen-ginsberg>

03] <https://allenginsberg.org/>

04] <https://litkicks.com/allenginsberg/>

The Allen Ginsberg Project: Links

<https://allenginsberg.org/links/>

Containing more than 300+ web links
in the following fields/areas

01] Videos

02] Films

03] Audios

04] Online Essays

05] Interviews

06] Articles

07] Photography/Art

08] Research

09] Memorials

10] Tributes

11] Buddhist

12] Activism

13] Publishers

14] Resources

15] Peers/Heros



Prestigious Honours

Allen Ginsberg (1926–1997) was a celebrated Beat Generation poet who received numerous prestigious honors, including the 1974 National Book Award for *The Fall of America*. He was inducted into the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1979 and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1995.

Key Awards and Honours:

- **National Book Award (1974):** Shared for Poetry for *The Fall of America*.
- **National Book Award (1981):** *Plutonium Ode* was honored.
- **American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1979):** Inducted as a member.
- **Robert Frost Medal (1986):** Awarded by the Poetry Society of America.
- **Golden Wreath of the Struga Poetry Evenings (1986):** Awarded in Macedonia.
- **Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (1993):** Awarded by the French government.
- **Pulitzer Prize Finalist (1995):** For *Cosmopolitan Greetings: Poems 1986–1992*.
- **Rainbow Honor Walk (2014):** Inaugural inductee in San Francisco for LGBTQ contributions to the arts.

Other Recognitions:

- **King of the May (1963):** Crowned by students in Prague.
- **Archival Recognition:** His letters were purchased by Stanford University for \$1 million in 1994.
- **Educator:** Served as a distinguished professor at Brooklyn College and co-founded the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at the Naropa Institute.

Videos

01] Interview with Allen Ginsberg

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPtj_P1y1Uc [1:20:07]

02] Allen Ginsberg: Buddhism and the Beats

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zc9VbjSxkQo> [1:49:02]

03] Best Minds: How Allen Ginsberg Made Revolutionary Poetry from Madness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCaQUdqpS8> [1:06:15]

04] KPFA Special - Allen Ginsberg: The Great American Poet of the Twentieth Century

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeMalwE-kVY> [59:58]

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JOHN ASHBERY (1927-2017)

"I don't find any direct statements in life. My poetry imitates or reproduces the way knowledge or awareness come to me, which is by fits and starts and by indirection. I don't think poetry arranged in neat patterns would reflect that situation. My poetry is disjunct, but then so is life."

Awards

- 1956: [Yale Younger Poets Prize](#), for [Some Trees](#) (1956) awarded by [W.H. Auden](#)
- 1962: [Ingram Merrill Foundation Fellowship](#)
- 1972: [Ingram Merrill Foundation Fellowship](#)
- 1976: [National Book Award](#) for [Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror](#) (1975).
- 1976: [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) for [Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror](#) (1975).
- 1976: [Pulitzer Prize in Poetry](#) for [Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror](#) (1975).
- 1984: Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize for *A Wave* (1984)
- 1984: [Bollingen Prize in Poetry](#) for *A Wave* (1984)
- 1985: [MacArthur Fellows Program Fellowship](#)
- 1987: Golden Plate Award of the [American Academy of Achievement](#)^[44]
- 1995: [Robert Frost Medal](#)
- 2002: Bestowed the rank of Officier de la [Légion d'honneur](#) by the Republic of France.^[45]
- 2005: finalist for [National Book Award](#) for *Where Shall I Wander* (2005)
- 2008: Robert Creeley Award^[46]
- 2008: [America Award](#) for a lifetime contribution to international writing
- 2011 [National Humanities Medal](#)
- 2011: Inducted into the [New York Writers Hall of Fame](#)
- 2011: [National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters](#)^[47]
- 2017: [The Raymond Roussel Society Medal](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_John_Ashbery

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.loa.org/writers/239-john-ashbery/>
02] <https://www.newyorker.com/contributors/john-ashbery>
03] <https://allpoetry.com/John-Ashbery>
04] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-ashbery>
05] <https://poets.org/poet/john-ashbery>
06] <https://poets.org/american-poets-magazine>
07] <https://poets.org/academy-american-poets>
08] https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poets/poet/102-22613_Ashbery
09] <https://www.thebeliever.net/an-interview-with-john-ashbery/>

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Remembering John Ashbery

Writers Pay Tribute

<https://www.loa.org/news-and-views/1323-remembering-john-ashbery-writers-pay-tribute/>

John Ashbery, who died on Sunday, September 3 at the age of 90, was the first living poet to be included in the Library of America series with the publication of John Ashbery: Collected Poems 1956-1987, in 2008. The second volume of this definitive edition of his works, Collected Poems 1991-2000, has just been published.

To celebrate Ashbery's extraordinary legacy, Library of America reached out to a number of his fellow writers for their thoughts on the man and his work.

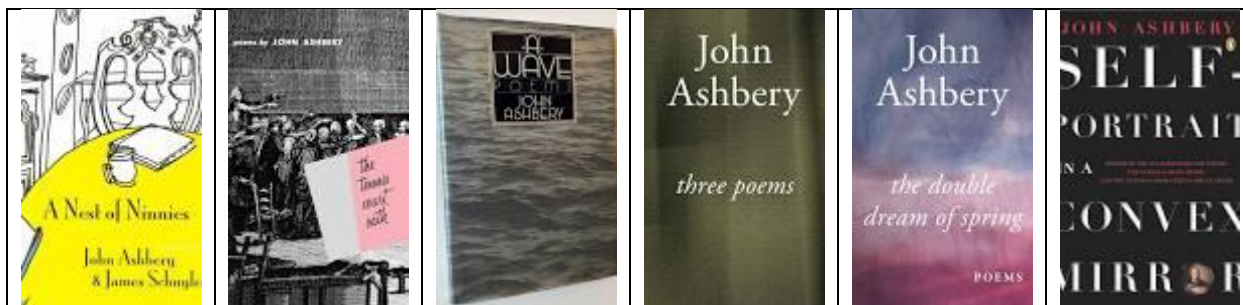
Charles Bernstein • Star Black • Harold Bloom • Nicholas Christopher • Marcella Durand • Adam Fitzgerald • Mark Ford • Langdon Hammer • Susan Howe • David Lehman • Eileen Myles • Charles North • Ron Padgett • Jed Perl • Marjorie Perloff • Lloyd Schwartz • Richard Sieburth • Peter Straub • Helen Vendler • Anne Waldman

John Ashbery Bibliography

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Ashbery_bibliography

The **bibliography of John Ashbery** includes poetry, literary criticism, art criticism, journalism, drama, fiction, and translations of verse and prose. His most significant body of work is in poetry, having published numerous poetry collections, book-length poems, and [limited edition chapbooks](#). In his capacity as a journalist and art critic, he contributed to magazines like *New York* and *Newsweek*. He served for a time as the editor of *Art and Literature: an International Review* and as executive editor of *Art News*. In drama and fiction, he wrote five plays and cowrote the novel *A Nest of Ninnies* with [James Schuyler](#).

Beyond his original works, he translated verse and prose from French. Many of his works of poetry, prose, drama, and translations have been compiled in volumes of collected writings.



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/86801.John_Ashbery
- 02] https://www.amazon.in/Books-John-Ashbery/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AJohn%2BAshbery
- 03] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/321003/selected-poems-by-john-ashbery/>
- 04] <https://www.ndbooks.com/author/john-ashbery/>
- 05] <https://www.nationalbook.org/people/john-ashbery/>
- 06] <https://www.flowchartfoundation.org/books-about-ashbery>

Videos

- 01] John Ashbery: A Life of Poetry with Karin Roffman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cv8wyie3ss> [58:38]

- 02] Presenting Jane & John: Freilicher & Ashbery on Film & in Print

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9VXLK1uJR8> [51:11]

John Ashbery's biographer Karin Roffman presents selections from the Poetry Room's 2014 oral history on the making of the short film, PRESENTING JANE (1952). Recently recovered after disappearing over 60 years ago, PRESENTING JANE was donated to the Woodberry Poetry Room/Harvard Film Archive by its creator Harrison Starr and featured the young John Ashbery, Jane Freilicher, Frank O'Hara and James Schuyler.

- 03] REEL TIME: An Audio Journey through John Ashbery's Early Life in Poetry || Woodberry Poetry Room

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BMx7t8ocY8> [1:02:31]

- 04] Readings in Contemporary Poetry - John Ashbery and Paolo Javier

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-4e_OhdQjM [1:23:32]

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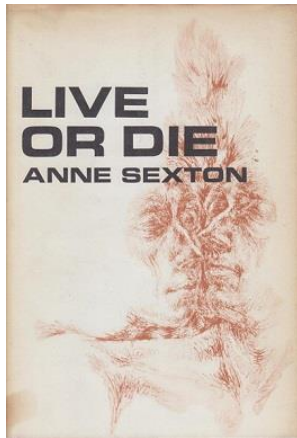
ANNE SEXTON

(1928-1974)

"Love? Be it man. Be it woman. It must be a wave you want to glide in on, give your body to it, give your laugh to it, give, when the gravelly sand takes you, your tears to the land. To love another is something like prayer and can't be planned, you just fall into its arms because your belief undoes your disbelief."

Live or Die (poetry collection)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_or_Die_\(poetry_collection\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_or_Die_(poetry_collection))



Live or Die is a collection of poetry by American poet Anne Sexton, published in 1966. Many of the poems in the collection are in free verse, though some are in rhyme. The poems, written between 1962 and 1966, are arranged in the book in chronological order. Their subjects are Sexton's troubled relationships with her mother and her daughters, and her treatment for mental illness.

The collection includes the poems "And One for My Dame", "Sylvia's Death", "Consorting With Angels" and "Wanting to Die". The book won the 1967 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Her Legacy

Anne Sexton (1928-1974) left a profound legacy as a Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet and a pioneer of the "confessional" genre. She revolutionized poetry in the 1960s/70s by courageously exploring taboo topics—mental illness, abortion, adultery, and motherhood—providing a voice for female experiences and mental health struggles.

Key Aspects of Her Legacy:

- **Confessional Poetry Leader:** Alongside Sylvia Plath and Robert Lowell, Sexton transformed intimate, often painful, personal experiences into art, breaking down societal barriers regarding acceptable topics for poetry.
- **Feminist Themes:** She tackled the constraints of the 1950s/60s housewife, the female body, and sexual politics, making her work crucial to the feminist movement and young women of the time.

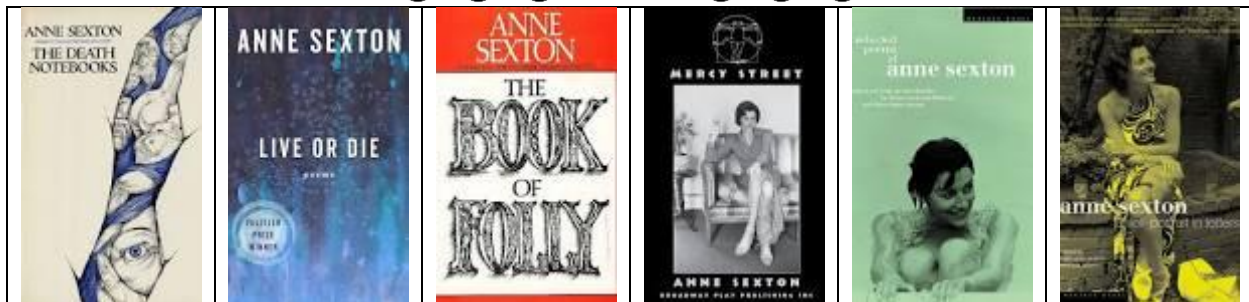
- **Pulitzer Prize Winner:** She won the 1967 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for *Live or Die*.
- **Literary Impact:** Her work, including *To Bedlam and Part Way Back* (1960) and *Transformations* (1972), is noted for its intense vulnerability, raw honesty, and exploration of the subconscious.
- **Mental Health Advocacy:** By documenting her intense battle with bipolar disorder, she provided a raw,, honest account of mental health struggles.
- **Tragic Icon:** Her death by suicide at age 45 cemented her reputation as a tragic, intense artist, sometimes overshadowing the technical mastery of her verse.

Sexton's work remains highly relevant for its fearless, unapologetic, and visceral exploration of the human condition.

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/articles/a-memory-of-anne-sexton>
- 02] <https://npg.si.edu/es/blog/anne-sexton%E2%80%99s-awful-rowing-toward-self-annihilation>
- 03] <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/97/07/20/reviews/jong-sexton.html>
- 04] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/anne-sexton>
- 05] <https://allpoetry.com/Anne-Sexton>
- 06] <https://poets.org/poet/anne-sexton>

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Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/anne-sexton/_/N-30x2
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/26814.Anne_Sexton
- 03] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/145032/anne-sexton>
- 04] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/anne-sexton>
- 05] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/114183/anne-sexton-by-diane-middlebrook/>
- 06] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Anne-Sexton/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AAnne%2BSexton



Videos

01] Harry's Poetry Hour: The Complete Poems of Anne Sexton

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc_nz7jzFSO [1:03:29]

Harry's Poetry Hour is produced and Hosted by Harry E. Northup and is recorded weekly as a part of MPTF Studios' Creative Chaos, a live broadcast of information and entertainment that was created to fight social isolation on the Wasserman Campus of the Motion Picture & Television Fund in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

02] Anne Sexton Discussion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esKrDlPmTu8> [38:17]

03] Anne Sexton: The Complete Poems w/ Sarah Fletcher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3AFxcwzGew> [1:42:31]

Poet and artist, Sarah Fletcher, returns to the podcast to join Andrew as they go into The Complete Poems of Anne Sexton in a deep dive extravaganza that veers from contemporary mental illness aesthetics to above ground pools to Sexton's allure and beauty. Topics include: Sexton's Beauty—The Confessional Poets—Sexton vs Plath—Daddy Robert Lowell—Maxine Kumin's Defensive Introduction—Mentorship in Poetry—Identity Politics—Harold Bloom—Literary It Girls—and more! (part 1)

04] [General] Original recording of Anne Sexton's last public reading at Goucher College in 1974. A few days later, Anne Sexton committed suicide.

https://www.reddit.com/r/Poetry/comments/7zndh9/general_original_recording_of_anne_sextons_last/ [1:21:57]



PHILIP LEVINE

(1928-2015)

"If that voice that you created that is most alive in the poem isn't carried throughout the whole poem, then I destroy where it's not there, and I reconstruct it so that that voice is the dominant voice in the poem."

Awards Received

- 1973 - American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, Frank O'Hara Prize, Guggenheim Foundation fellowship
- 1977 - Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets- *The Names of the Lost* (1975)
- 1978 - Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize from Poetry
- 1979 - National Book Critics Circle Award - *Ashes: Poems New and Old* - 7 Years from Somewhere
- 1980 - Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship
- 1980 - National Book Award for Poetry - *Ashes: Poems New and Old*⁽¹⁾
- 1981 - Levinson Prize from Poetry magazine
- 1987 - Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize from the Modern Poetry Association and the American Council for the Arts
- 1991 - National Book Award for Poetry and Los Angeles Times Book Prize - *What Work Is*
- 1995 - Pulitzer Prize for Poetry - *The Simple Truth* (1994)
- 2011 - Appointed Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (United States Poet Laureate)
- 2013 - Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award

His Legacy

Philip Levine (1928-2015) left a profound legacy as one of America's preeminent poets of the working class, often referred to as the "poet laureate of the working man". Over a career spanning more than 50 years, he gave voice to the marginalized, industrial workers of Detroit, imbuing their everyday struggles, dignity, and labor with poetic significance.

His key contributions and legacy include:

- **Elevating Working-Class Narratives:** Levine broke new ground by bringing the ignored, gritty world of factory labor—clanging steel, noise, and physical exhaustion—into American poetry. His work often focused on the "voiceless," offering dignity to laborers.

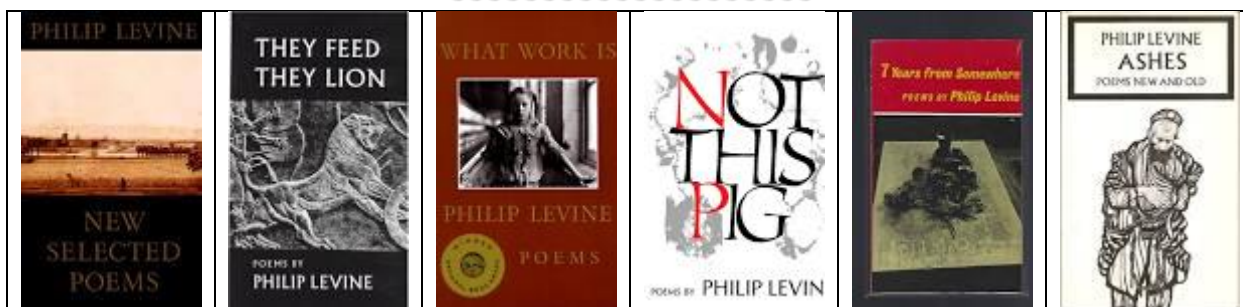
- **Literary Accolades:** He was highly decorated, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1995 for *The Simple Truth* (1994), and two National Book Awards for Poetry for *Ashes: Poems New and Old* (1980) and *What Work Is* (1991).
- **U.S. Poet Laureate (2011–2012):** As the 18th Poet Laureate of the United States, Levine brought his plainspoken, accessible style to the national stage, focusing on making poetry relevant to everyday life.
- **The "Fresno School":** As a professor at California State University, Fresno from 1958 to 1992, he mentored a generation of poets, shaping a style often characterized by narrative, autobiographical, and industrial themes.
- **Style and Themes:** His poetry is noted for its conversational, yet intense, style that blended social commentary with personal memory, often highlighting themes of defiance, solidarity, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Levine published more than 20 volumes of poetry and was regarded for his commitment to realism over abstraction, documenting the lives of people in cities like Detroit with "ferocious loyalty".

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/philip-levine>
- 02] <https://poets.org/poet/philip-levine>
- 03] <https://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/2512/the-art-of-poetry-no-39-philip-levine>
- 04] <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-letters/articles/philip-levine>
- 05] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/philip-levine/>
- 06] <https://brooklynpoets.org/community/poet/philip-levine>

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Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/15537.Philip_Levine
- 02] <https://guides.loc.gov/poet-laureate-philip-levine/selected-bibliography>
- 03] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/philip-levine/>
- 04] https://books.google.co.in/books/about/One_for_the_Rose.html?id=WxNbAAAAAAAJ&redir_esc=y
- 05] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/philip-levine/>

The Bread of Time

"The Bread of Time: Toward an Autobiography" is a 1994 memoir by American poet Philip Levine, blending personal history, reflections on his life in Detroit and California, and tributes to his mentors. It explores his journey as a poet, celebrating teachers like John Berryman and Yvor Winters.

Key aspects of the book include:

- **Subject:** A collection of autobiographical essays and reflections.
- **Theme:** The development of the poet's voice and the influence of early life and mentors on his craft.
- **Context:** It provides insight into the "double-edged revelation of the way writers grow"

https://www.amazon.com.be/-/en/Judge-Philip-Levine/dp/0472086251?language=en_GB

<https://guides.loc.gov/poet-laureate-philip-levine/selected-bibliography>

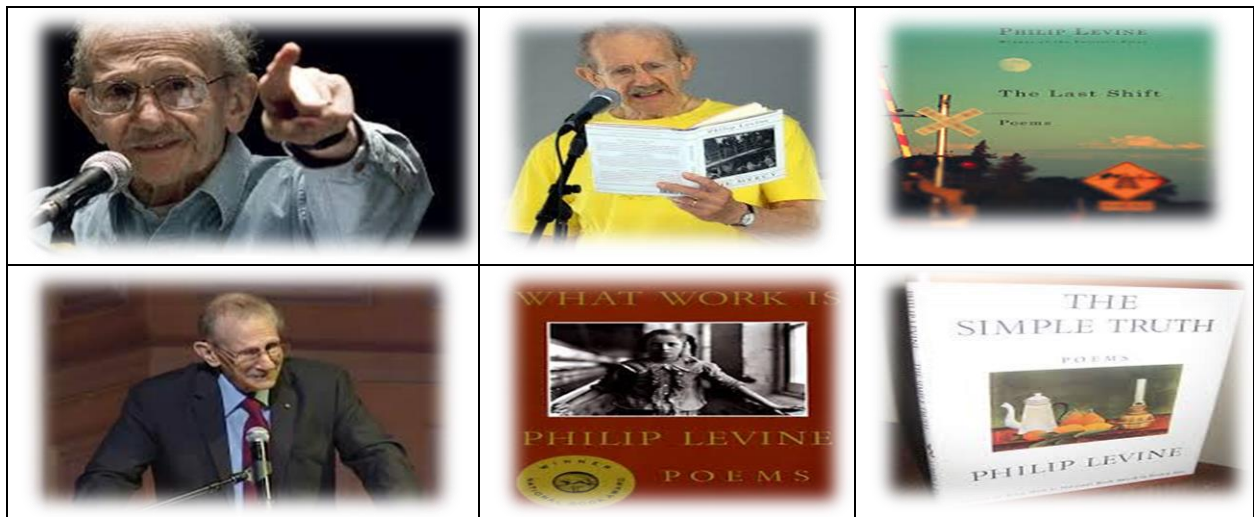
https://www.ibiblio.org/ipa/poems/levine/select_bibliography.php

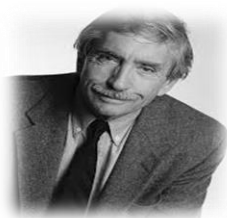
Video

01] Philip Levine Gives Inaugural Reading as U.S. Poet Laureate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku-1okyplds> [57:47]

Philip Levine, whose poetry has honored the working man for almost half a century, gives his inaugural reading as the 18th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the Laureate's appointment on Aug. 10.





EDWARD ALBEE

(1928-2016)

" Good writers define reality; bad ones merely restate it. A good writer turns fact into truth; a bad writer will, more often than not, accomplish the opposite."

His Legacy

Edward Albee (1928-2016) left a lasting legacy as a titan of 20th-century American drama, often ranked alongside O'Neill, Williams, and Miller. Renowned for mastering "Theatre of the Absurd" styles, his work famously exposed the raw, psychological realities of marriage, loneliness, and societal hypocrisy through biting, witty dialogue in masterpieces like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*.

Key aspects of Edward Albee's legacy include:

- **Renowned Playwright:** He wrote nearly 30 plays over six decades, solidifying his status as a "Big Four" American dramatist.
- **Award-Winning Work:** Albee won three Pulitzer Prizes for Drama (*A Delicate Balance*, *Seascape*, *Three Tall Women*), multiple Tony Awards—including a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005—and the National Medal of Arts.
- **Reinventing Theater:** He bridged the gap between European Absurdism and American realism, particularly with early, impactful Off-Broadway works like *The Zoo Story* and *The American Dream*.
- **Signature Style:** His work is characterized by intense verbal combat, examinations of intimacy, and a cynical, yet honest, look at the human condition.
- **Influential Impact:** He deeply influenced younger generations of playwrights, such as Paula Vogel, by merging sharp theatricality with emotional depth.

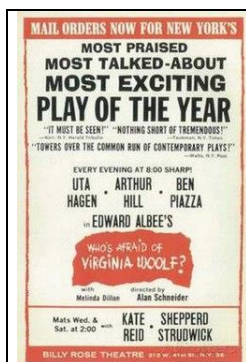
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? remains a cornerstone of dramatic literature, often cited for its intense, psychologically gripping portrayal of a disintegrating marriage.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Who%27s_Afraid_of_Virginia_Woolf%3F

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is a play by [Edward Albee](#) first staged in October 1962. It examines the complexities of the marriage of middle-aged couple Martha and George. Late one evening, after a university faculty party, they receive unwitting younger couple Nick and Honey as guests, and draw them into their bitter and frustrated relationship.

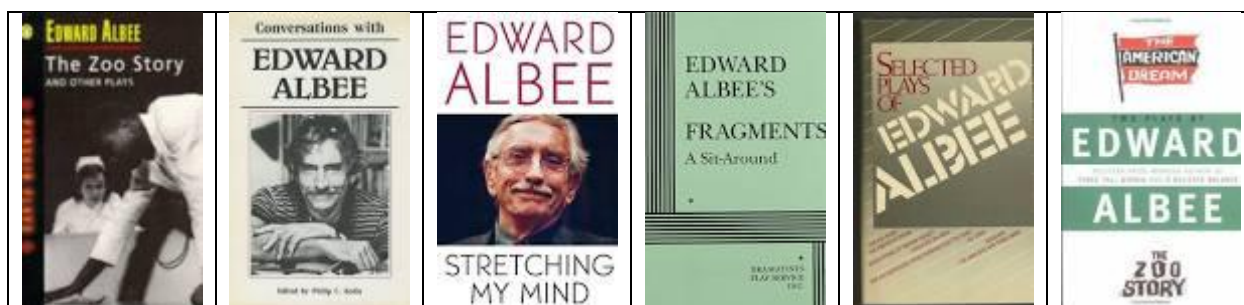
The three-act play normally takes just under three hours to perform, with two 10-minute intermissions.



The title is a pun on the song "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" from Walt Disney's Three Little Pigs (1933), substituting the name of the celebrated English author Virginia Woolf. Martha and George repeatedly sing this version of the song throughout the play.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? won both the 1963 Tony Award for Best Play and the 1962-1963 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play.

It is frequently revived on the modern stage. The film adaptation was released in 1966, written by Ernest Lehman, directed by Mike Nichols, and starring Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, George Segal, and Sandy Dennis.



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/edward-albee/_/N-2ktx
- 02] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/edward-albee>
- 03] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/247/edward-albee/>
- 04] <https://edwardalbeesociety.org/education/bibliography/>
- 05] https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/74015.Best_of_Edward_Albee
- 06] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Edward-Albee/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AEdward%2BAlbee

Edward Albee Society

<https://edwardalbeesociety.org/about-us/>

The Edward Albee Society is dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of the great playwright Edward Albee.

The purpose of the Society is to promote the study of the life and works of Edward Albee, and the drama and theatre for which his work was in large part the instigator and model. This purpose is to be carried out by forming an international organization, namely this Society, whose Members will join in the exploration of Edward Albee's life and works by means of historical and critical writing, artistic performances on stage, film, television, radio and recordings, by the amassing of historical documentation, and by publications devoted to Edward Albee and his plays. The subjects of study shall include not only Edward Albee and his works, but all aspects of the American and World Theatre he has affected by his own work in theatre as a playwright, director and producer. Furthermore the Society will support efforts that affirm the notion of drama as literature, and encourage projects that support new dramatic

work by new playwrights, as an extension of Edward Albee's own Playwrights Unit, which he founded in 1963 with his producing partners Richard Barr and Clinton Wilder. The Society will produce an annual periodical (newsletter or journal) containing articles about Edward Albee's life and work; maintain a website listing productions of Edward Albee's plays around the country and world, as well as events of interest to Edward Albee fans; develop and distribute educational materials for teachers; and will organize panels and conferences to promote new literary and educational scholarship.

Edward Albee's work as playwright, producer, and mentor of playwrights reflected his passion for social justice. As a member of PEN, he dedicated himself to freedom and social justice around the world. In that spirit, the Edward Albee Society dedicates itself to the celebration of and advocacy for diversity, inclusion, and social justice. We stand against all forms of racism, violence against women, and anti - LGBTQ prejudice. As Mr. Albee often said: "The purpose of serious theater has always been to hold a mirror up to people and say, 'Hey, this is you. If you don't like what you see, why don't you change?'"



Videos

01] The Play Podcast - 020 - Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf - by Edward Albee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OxIGjUbHfo> [1:08:41]

02] Edward Albee | 92Y Readings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1TITZ-a4wk> [1:24:55]

03] Edward Albee: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (ENG)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjL920IoCJM> [28:29]

04] Edward Albee & Paul Auster Discuss Samuel Beckett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oywUVILo1Zs> [59:53]

Two literary legends, Edward Albee & Paul Auster, discuss the works of the great avant-garde novelist, playwright and poet Samuel Beckett. They are joined by Jeanette Seaver who, along with her husband, translator/publisher Richard Seaver, introduced America to Samuel Beckett.

05] Edward Albee: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1962) - Part 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkO_z9vsoAw [30:12]

06] WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? - BBC Radio play by Edward Albee.(Part 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8EjU8ti6No> [1:15:18]

A new production, recorded on location, of this classic American play where two married couples tear each other's lives apart in a drunken brawl after a university party. For the older couple, George and Martha, it is part of the ritual of their marriage but on this particular night things go too far...





ADRIENNE RICH (1929-2012)

" The mother's battle for her child with sickness, with poverty, with war, with all the forces of exploitation and callousness that cheapen human life needs to become a common human battle, waged in love and in the passion for survival."

Awards

- 1950: Yale Younger Poets Award for *A Change of World*.
- 1952: Guggenheim Fellowship
- 1960: National Institute of Arts and Letters Award
- 1970: Shelley Memorial Award
- 1974: National Book Award for Poetry (a split award) for *Diving into the Wreck*
- 1979: Honorary Doctorate Smith College
- 1986: Inaugural Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize
- 1989: Honorary doctorate from Harvard University
- 1989: National Poetry Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Art of Poetry
- 1990: Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement (for gay or lesbian writing)
- 1991: Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service
- 1991: Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1992: Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize
- 1992: Poets' Prize for *Atlas of the Difficult World*
- 1992: Frost Medal
- 1992: Academy of American Poets Fellowship
- 1994: MacArthur Fellowship
- 1996: Wallace Stevens Award
- 1997: National Medal of Arts (refused)
- 1999: Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lannan Foundation
- 2006: National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters
- 2006: David R Kessler Award for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies
- 2010: Lifetime Recognition Award from the Griffin Poetry Prize
- 2017: Finalist, Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (posthumous)
- 2019: In June 2019, Rich was one of the inaugural fifty American "pioneers, trailblazers, and heroes" inducted on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor within the Stonewall National Monument (SNM) in New York City's Stonewall Inn. The SNM is the first U.S. national monument dedicated to LGBTQ rights and history, and the wall's unveiling was timed to take place during the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

Book Review: "The Power of Adrienne Rich"

An Aesthetic and Political Force

<https://artsfuse.org/313392/book-review-the-power-of-adrienne-rich-an-aesthetic-and-political-force/>

By David Daniel

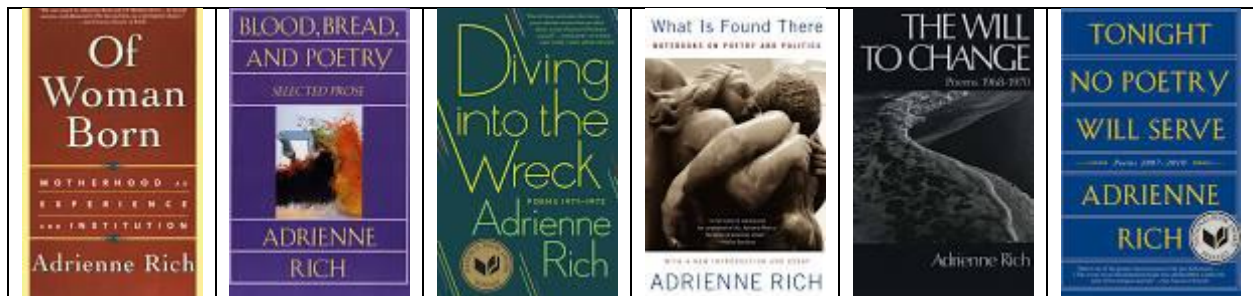
Poet Adrienne Rich's journey serves as a model for meeting the challenge posed for artists and the rest of us today, confronted with the rise of authoritarian forces in America.

The Power of Adrienne Rich: A Biography by Hilary Holladay. Princeton University Press, 478 pp.



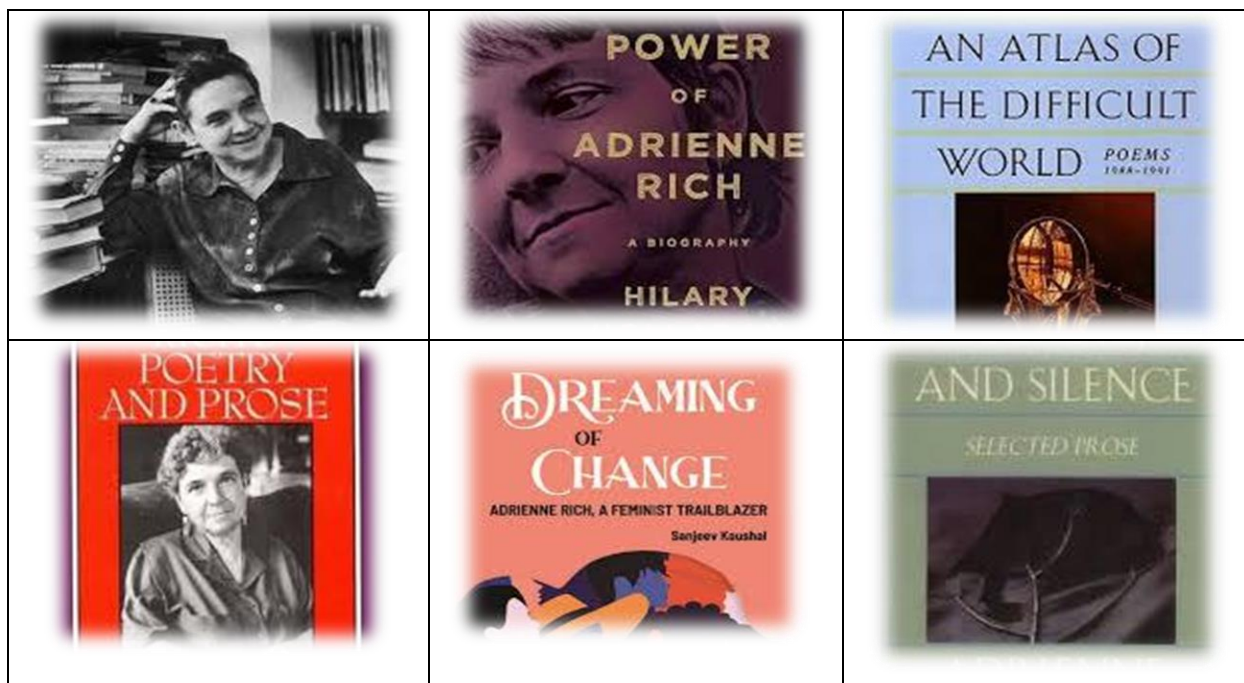
In 1950, during her junior year at Radcliffe, Adrienne Rich attended a reading by Robert Frost, then in his mid-70s and comfortably exercising his rustic poet persona. Afterward, in a letter, Rich gushed to her parents that the acclaimed poet “talked so acutely and honestly about poetry that I sat there swelling inside with a great and joyful assent.” That reaction epitomizes Rich’s lifelong, single-minded dedication to the craft of poetry, which was, as Hilary Holladay writes in a preface to her *The Power of Adrienne Rich* (published in 2020 and newly released in softcover by Princeton University Press), “as close to a religion as anything she would ever know.”

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Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.nationalbook.org/people/adrienne-rich/>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/29947.Adrienne_Rich
- 03] <https://wnorton.co.uk/search/contributors?page=4&q=Adrienne+Rich>
- 04] <https://poets.org/poet/adrienne-rich>
- 05] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/adrienne-rich/221951/?srsltid=AfmBOoodR-6BJtNxGrTzIkQ9Q2VOFJCuy2wi0srYCS2UTw71-deOSovA>
- 06] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Adrienne-Rich/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AAdrienne%2BRich
- 07] <https://rile.space/authors/adrienne-rich>



Videos

01] Tribute to Adrienne Rich | 92Y Readings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94164RL3Ykk> [1:27:15]

Adrienne Rich first appeared at the Poetry Center in 1958 and returned often over years. "I cannot give you a poetry of passions resolved, or of pure observation, or of self-enclosed self-exploration," she said at a reading here in 1991. "Poetry is one of our great human resources, and often a strangely wasted resource. At a time when extremely sophisticated tactics are employed to misinform and demoralize us as a people, I believe that poetry speaks not from a separate sphere but in a different voice." In November, Ms. Rich's family, friends and fellow poets gathered at 92Y for an evening of readings and remembrance. She had "one of the authentic, unpredictable, urgent, essential voices of our time," wrote W. S. Merwin. "All her life she was in love with the hope of telling utter truth." This event was co-sponsored by the Academy of American Poets, W. W. Norton, the Poetry Society of America and Poets House.

02] Meet the Poet: Adrienne Rich

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mrzvq5su5XA> [55:47]

03] Adrienne Rich: Poems (Part - I)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a8dGkIofuw> [23:29]

04] Adrienne Rich: Poems (Part - II)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A3YTYGETkM> [26:38]

05] Modern-ish Poets Series 2: Adrienne Rich

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7w_YsSnaIO [55:40]

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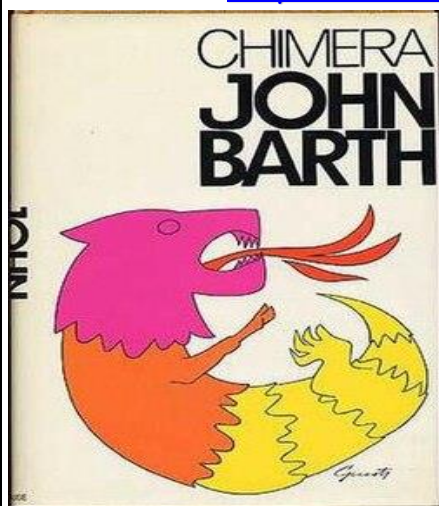
JOHN BARTH

(1930-2024)

"To turn experience into speech - that is, to classify, to categorize, to conceptualize, to grammarize, to syntactify it - is always a betrayal of experience, a falsification of it; but only so betrayed can it be dealt with at all, and only in so dealing with it did I ever feel a man, alive and kicking."

Chimera (Barth novel)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimera_\(Barth_novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimera_(Barth_novel))



Chimera is a 1972 fantasy novel written by American writer John Barth, composed of three loosely connected novellas. The novellas are *Dunyazadiad*, *Perseid* and *Bellerophoniad*, whose titles refer eponymously to the mythical characters *Dunyazad*, *Perseus* and *Bellerophon* (slayer of the mythical Chimera). The book is an example of postmodernism, which can be seen in its metafictional content and its incorporation of stylistic elements that go beyond the traditional novel genre. It shared the U.S. National Book Award for Fiction with *Augustus* by John Edward Williams.

Awards

- 1956: National Book Award finalist for *The Floating Opera*
- 1965: The [Brandeis University](#) creative arts award
- 1965: The [Rockefeller Foundation](#) grant
- 1966: [National Institute of Arts and Letters](#) grant
- 1968: Nominated for the National Book Award for *Lost in the Funhouse*
- 1973: Shared the National Book Award for *Chimera* with [John Edward Williams](#) for *Augustus*
- 1974: Elected to the [American Academy of Arts and Letters](#)
- 1974: Fellow of the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#)
- 1997: [F. Scott Fitzgerald](#) Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Fiction
- 1998: [Lannan Foundation](#) Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1998: [PEN/Malamud Award](#)
- 1999: [Enoch Pratt](#) Society's Lifetime Achievement in Letters Award
- 2008: Roozi Rozegari, Iranian literature prize for best foreign work translation, *The Floating Opera*

Literary Work

John Barth (1930-2024) was a seminal American postmodernist and metafictional author known for complex, self-reflexive novels and short stories that pushed the limits of narrative structure. His major works include *The Sot-Weed Factor*, *Giles Goat-Boy*, *Lost in the Funhouse*, and the National Book Award-winning *Chimera*.

Major Novels and Fiction

- *The Floating Opera* (1956)
- *The End of the Road* (1958)
- *The Sot-Weed Factor* (1960): A satirical, historical metafiction.
- *Giles Goat-Boy* (1966): A complex allegorical novel.
- *Lost in the Funhouse* (1968): A collection of stories often considered quintessential postmodern fiction.
- *Chimera* (1972): Won the 1973 National Book Award.
- *LETTERS* (1979): An epistolary novel involving characters from his earlier works.
- *Sabbatical: A Romance* (1982)
- *The Tidewater Tales* (1987)
- *The Last Voyage of Somebody the Sailor* (1991)
- *Coming Soon!!!: A Narrative* (2001)
- *Every Third Thought: A Novel in Five Seasons* (2011)

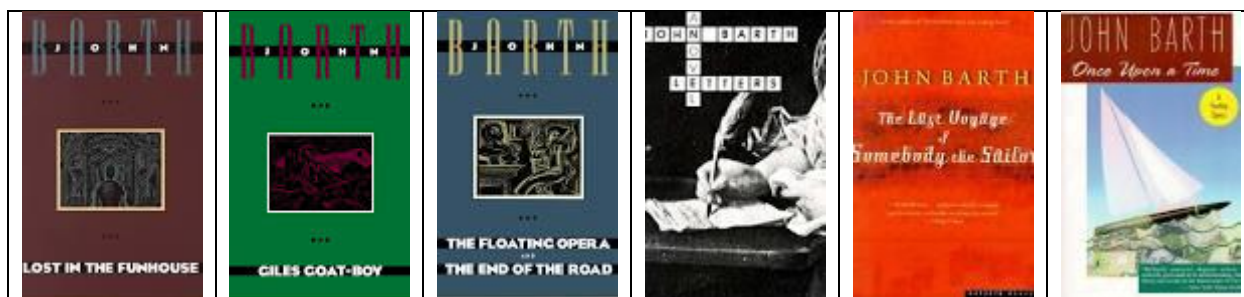
Essays and Short Stories

- *The Friday Book* (1984): A collection of essays.
- *The Literature of Exhaustion* (1967): A key essay on postmodern theory, arguing that traditional forms were depleted, followed by "*The Literature of Replenishment*" (1980).
- *The Development* (2008): Linked stories.

Key Themes and Style

- **Metafiction:** Barth often wrote about the process of writing, making the reader aware of the fiction's construction.
- **Reimagining Myth/History:** He frequently used classical mythology or historical settings, such as in *Chimera* (myth) or *The Sot-Weed Factor* (colonial Maryland).

- **"Used-up" Forms:** He explored the idea that traditional literary forms were exhausted, choosing to innovate by acknowledging this limitation.



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/john-barth>
- 02] <https://www.abebbooks.com/book-search/author/john-barth/>
- 03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/john-barth/>
- 04] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/1542/john-barth/>
- 05] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/8113.John_Barth

Videos

- 01] giles goat-boy by john barth | how to win the lottery podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gagf6vimzP4> [1:17:11]

- 02] August 1, 2024: John Barth (1930-2024), Master of Metafiction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7udazxl066U> [59:57]

- 03] Three Percent #190: John Barth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TvwDeX4-e8> [1:24:47]

In honor of two recent John Barth reissues—The Sot-Weed Factor and Chimera, both Dalkey Archive Essentials—John Domini (The Archeology of a Good Ràgu, The Color Inside a Melon, and this appreciation of Barth, among other works) and Max Besora (author of the intro to Sot-Weed Factor along with the very much Barth inspired The Adventures and Misadventures of the Extraordinary and Admirable Joan Orpí, Conquistador and Founder of New Catalonia) joined Chad W. Post to talk about these two titles and Barth's overall impact on the literary scene. It's a long, interesting conversation with a Spanish superfan and a former student of Barths. Well worth the listen!

- 04] The Sot-Weed Factor by John Barth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty1HnAILEQQ> [33:33]

- 05] John Barth, Lost in the Funhouse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8zNyud-wVE> [49:10]

In her lecture on John Barth's collection of stories Lost in the Funhouse, Professor Amy Hungerford delves beyond the superficial pleasures and frustrations of Barth's oft-cited metafictional masterwork to illuminate the profound commitment to language that his narrative risks entail. Foremost among Barth's concerns, Hungerford argues, is the multi-faceted relationship between language and love. Desire can drive a narrative, or disrupt it. Language can create desire, or replace it. Unifying the virtuosic variety of his tales is Barth's inquiry: Does language always stand in for a loss of bodily presence? Must the written word always exist as the shadow of the oral?

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EL DOCTOROW

(1931-2015)

"I don't think anything I've written has been done in under six or eight drafts. Usually, it takes me a few years to write a book. 'World's Fair' was an exception. It seemed to be a particularly fluent book as it came. I did it in seven months. I think what happened in that case is that God gave me a bonus book."

Awards & Honours

- 1975: [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) for [Ragtime](#)
- 1986: [National Book Award](#) for *World's Fair*
- 1988: Golden Plate Award of the [American Academy of Achievement](#)
- 1989: Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for Fiction
- 1989 [MacDowell Colony](#) Fellowship
- 1990: [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) for [Billy Bathgate](#)
- 1990: [PEN/Faulkner Award](#) for *Billy Bathgate*
- 1990: [William Dean Howells Medal](#) for *Billy Bathgate*
- 1998: [National Humanities Medal](#) from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
- 1998: [Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award](#) from the [Tulsa Library Trust](#)
- 1999 awarded the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Achievement in American Literature award, which is given annually to recognize outstanding achievement in American literature. As part of the [F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival](#), the day-long festival takes place in Rockville, Maryland, the city where Fitzgerald, his wife, and his daughter are buried.
- 2002: First recipient of the [Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement](#)
- 2005: [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) for [The March](#)
- 2006: [PEN/Faulkner Award](#) for *The March*
- 2007: Membership to the [American Philosophical Society](#)
- 2008: [St. Louis Literary Award](#) from the [Saint Louis University](#) Library Associates
- 2012: Inducted into the [New York State Writers Hall of Fame](#)
- 2012: [PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction](#)

- 2013: [Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters](#) from the [National Book Foundation](#)
- 2013: [American Academy of Arts and Letters](#) Gold Medal for Fiction
- 2014: [Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction](#)

Film Adaptation

E. L. Doctorow's acclaimed historical novels were frequently adapted into films, most notably the Oscar-nominated *Ragtime* (1981), directed by Miloš Forman. Other significant adaptations include *Daniel* (1983), *Billy Bathgate* (1991), and the Western *Welcome to Hard Times* (1967). These films often explored the intersection of personal lives and major historical events.

Key adaptations include:

- **Ragtime (1981):** Directed by Miloš Forman, based on the 1975 novel, featuring James Cagney's final film role.
- **Daniel (1983):** Directed by Sidney Lumet, based on *The Book of Daniel*, starring Timothy Hutton.
- **Billy Bathgate (1991):** Directed by Robert Benton, starring Dustin Hoffman.
- **Welcome to Hard Times (1967):** Directed by Burt Kennedy, starring Henry Fonda.
- **Jolene (2008):** Based on the short story "Jolene: A Life," starring Jessica Chastain.
- **Wakefield (2016):** Based on the short story, starring Bryan Cranston.

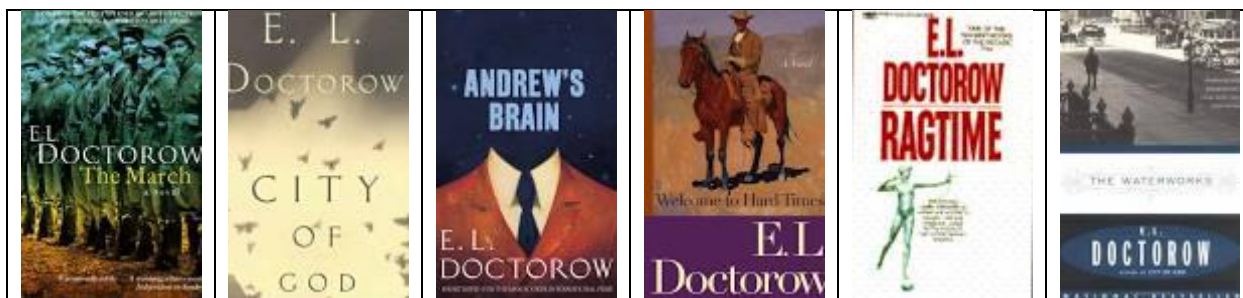
Key Details

- **Author Involvement:** Doctorow was not only the source material author but also wrote the screenplay for the 1983 film *Daniel*.
- **Other Media:** *Ragtime* was also adapted into a successful Broadway musical in 1998.
- **Themes:** The adaptations often mirror the novel's focus on American history, social change, and the blend of fictional characters with historical figures.

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.newyorker.com/contributors/e-l-doctorow>
- 02] <https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/prizes/fiction-prize/item/n79021656/el-doctorow/>
- 03] <https://www.neh.gov/about/awards/national-humanities-medals/e-l-doctorow>
- 04] <https://www.albany.edu/writers-inst/webpages4/archives/doctorow.html>
- 05] <https://www.newyorker.com/books/this-week-in-fiction/e-l-doctorow-07-08-24>
- 06] <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/e-l-doctorow>
- 07] <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2015/07/22/remembering-el-doctorow-author-of-ragtime-and-so-much-more/>





Web Links for his Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/89145.Best_of_E_L_Doctorow
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/7163/el-doctorow/>
- 03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/e-l-doctorow/>
- 04] <https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/prizes/fiction-prize/item/n79021656/el-doctorow/>
- 05] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/el-doctorow/199231/?srsltid=AfmBOorfEt4mRVd_OLwTmMeEEi5gCLeOwQiijbODxNOsK5Mi_V8tWpaQ
- 06] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/e-l-doctorow/_/N-2k82

Videos

01] E.L. Doctorow on How Writers Write - The John Adams Institute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HaLnHfnaMA> [1:31:04]

On 20 October, 1993, American author E.L. Doctorow, was known international for his works of historical fiction, visited the John Adams Institute to give a lecture about writing. His work includes The Book of Daniel, Ragtime World's Fair, Billy Bathgate, The March and Homer & Langley. He taught at Sarah Lawrence College, the Yale School of Drama, the University of Utah, the University of California, Irvine, and Princeton University. He was the Loretta and Lewis Glucksman Professor of English and American Letters at New York University.

02] From the Archives - 2002 - E. L. Doctorow - Southampton College Writers Conference Series

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mO7US4A6L44> [1:12:06]

03] A Conversation with Novelist E.L Doctorow and Writer Tony Kushner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uJrmqDcOfc> [1:22:19]

For its inaugural event, the Forum invited literary heavyweights E.L. Doctorow and Tony Kushner to speak about the famous trial of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were convicted of being spies for the Soviet Union. The two writers discussed why the fate of the Rosenbergs continues to inspire the artistic imagination.

04] T Book Club: Let's talk about E. L. Doctorow's "Ragtime"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wYvnRnIVgk> [43:30]

Join T magazine's deputy digital editor, Kate Guadagnino, and writer Jonathan Dee for a virtual discussion about E.L. Doctorow's 1975 novel, "Ragtime." Set between New Rochelle and New York City, we'll explore how the author connects seemingly disparate characters and elements in a very N.Y.C. way.

05] E.L. Doctorow "Andrew's Brain"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhHXyKMvXg> [50:15]

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SYLVIA PLATH (1932-1963)

" And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.

Compiled by:
Veeraganesh B <::> Reg No. 233313111001

Awards

Sylvia Plath is primarily celebrated for winning the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her [Collected Poems](#), marking the first posthumous win for poetry, [Pulitzer Prizes](#) and [Poetry Foundation](#) confirm. During her life, she earned early accolades including a Fulbright Scholarship, the 1955 Gluscock Prize, and a prestigious Mademoiselle magazine guest editorship [Wikipedia](#) and Poetry Foundation.

Major Awards and Honors:

- [Pulitzer Prize for Poetry \(1982\)](#): Awarded for *The Collected Poems* (posthumous).
- [Fulbright Scholarship](#): Allowed her to study at Cambridge University.
- [Gluscock Prize \(1955\)](#): Won for her poetry.
- [Mademoiselle Magazine Awards](#): Won a fiction contest, leading to a guest editorship.
- [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#): Recognized as an alumna of the program.

Plath's work continues to receive posthumous acclaim, with *Ariel* and *The Bell Jar* considered cornerstones of modern literature.

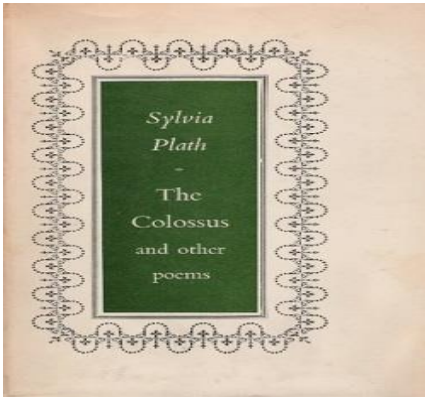
Sylvia Plath Bibliography

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia_Plath_bibliography

[Sylvia Plath](#) (1932-1963) was an American author and poet. Plath is primarily known for her poetry, but earned her greatest reputation for her semi-autobiographical novel [The Bell Jar](#), published [pseudonymously](#) as weeks before her death.

The Colossus and Other Poems

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Colossus_and_Other_Poems



The Colossus and Other Poems is a poetry collection by American poet [Sylvia Plath](#), first published by [Heinemann](#), on 31st October 1960^[1] in England and by [Alfred A. Knopf](#) on 14 May 1962 in the US. It is the only volume of poetry by Plath that was published before her death in 1963.

Critical Reception

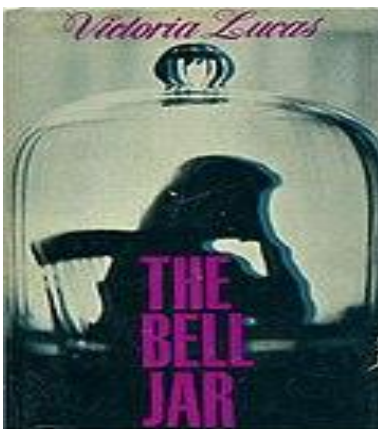
Prominent journalist, poet and literary critic for [The Observer](#) newspaper, [Al Alvarez](#), called the posthumous re-release of the book, after the success of [Ariel](#), a "major literary event" and wrote of Plath's work:

"She steers clear of feminine charm, deliciousness, gentility, supersensitivity and the act of being a poetess. She simply writes good poetry. And she does so with a seriousness that demands only that she be judged equally seriously... There is an admirable no-nonsense air about this; the language is bare but vivid and precise, with a concentration that implies a good deal of disturbance with proportionately little fuss."

[Seamus Heaney](#) said of *The Colossus*: "On every page, a poet is serving notice that she has earned her credentials and knows her trade."

The Bell Jar

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bell_Jar



The Bell Jar is the only novel written by the American writer and poet [Sylvia Plath](#). Originally published under the pseudonym "Victoria Lucas" in 1963, the novel is supposedly semi-autobiographical, with the names of places and people changed. The book is often regarded as a *roman à clef* because the protagonist's descent into mental illness parallels Plath's own experiences with what may have been [clinical depression](#). Plath died by [suicide](#) a month after its first UK publication.

The novel was published under Plath's name for the first time in 1966. It was not published in the United States until 1971, in accordance with the wishes of both Plath's husband [Ted Hughes](#) and her mother. In the United States, the book became an instant best-seller, and has since been translated into more than forty languages.

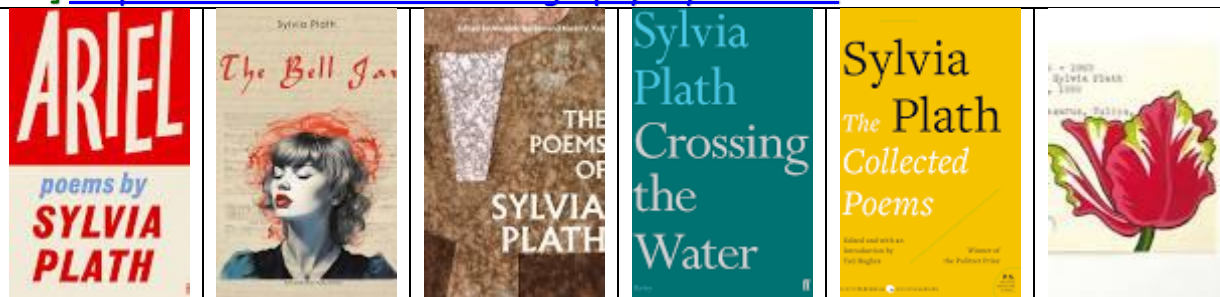
Musical Settings

- In his [Ariel: Five Poems of Sylvia Plath](#) (1971), American composer [Ned Rorem](#) has set for soprano, clarinet and piano the poems "Words", "Poppies In July", "The Hanging Man", "Poppies In October", and "[Lady Lazarus](#)."

- Also drawing from [Ariel](#), in his *Six Poems by Sylvia Plath* for solo soprano (1975), German composer [Aribert Reimann](#) has set the poems "Edge", "Sheep In Fog", "The Couriers", "The Night Dances", and "Words." He later set "[Lady Lazarus](#)" (1992), also for solo soprano.
- Finnish composer [Kaija Saariaho](#)'s five-part *From the Grammar of Dreams* for soprano and mezzo a cappella (1988) is constructed on a collage of fragments from [The Bell Jar](#) and the poem "Paralytic." The piece was also arranged by the composer into a version for soprano and electronics (2002), in which the singer sings in interaction with a recorded double of her own voice. Albeit composed as a concert piece, *From the Grammar of Dreams* has also been staged.
- American composer [Juliana Hall](#)'s *Lorelei* (1989) for mezzo, horn, and piano is a setting of Plath's poem of the same name. Hall had previously set "The Night Dances" as a movement of her cycle for soprano and piano *Night Dances* (1987) featuring texts by five female poets, and went on to write a song cycle for soprano and piano entirely devoted to Plath, *Crossing The Water* (2011), which comprises the poems "Street Song", "Crossing The Water", "Rhyme", and "Alicante Lullaby."
- In her cycle for soprano and piano *The Blood Jet* (2006), American composer [Lori Laitman](#) set the poems "Morning Song", "The Rival", "Kindness", and "Balloons."

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://poets.org/poet/sylvia-plath>
- 02] https://mcgrath.nd.edu/assets/316752/biography_sylvia_plath.pdf
- 03] <https://mypoeticside.com/poets/sylvia-plath-poems>
- 04] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/sylvia-plath/>
- 05] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sylvia-Plath>



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/sylvia-plath>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/4379.Sylvia_Plath
- 03] <https://blueroseone.com/publish/best-sylvia-plath-books/>
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/sylvia-plath/_/N-2kn9
- 05] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/sylvia-plath/197424/?srsltid=AfmBOoo8Mnd13pcGH74cWietSMf7w4zAUtNPhZiwrR4efFuWa6CdjhIz>
- 06] https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL4327652A/Sylvia_Plath

Timeline

Sylvia Plath (1932–1963) was a pioneering American confessional poet and novelist known for *The Bell Jar* and *Ariel*. Following a brilliant academic career at Smith College and Cambridge, she married poet Ted Hughes in 1956, battling depression and intense creative highs before taking her life at age 30, later winning a posthumous Pulitzer.

Early Life and Education

- **Oct 27, 1932:** Born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Otto and Aurelia Plath.
- **Nov 5, 1940:** Her father dies from untreated diabetes complications, a defining trauma.
- **1950–1953:** Attends Smith College, where she is a top student and editor.
- **Summer 1953:** Works as a guest editor at *Mademoiselle* in New York; experiences a mental health crisis and makes her first suicide attempt.
- **1955:** Graduates from Smith College and wins a Fulbright Scholarship to Cambridge University.

Marriage and Literary Career

- **Feb 25, 1956:** Meets English poet Ted Hughes at a party in Cambridge.
- **June 16, 1956:** Marries Ted Hughes.
- **1957–1958:** Returns to the US to teach at Smith College.
- **1960:** Publishes her first collection, *The Colossus and Other Poems*, in the UK. Daughter Frieda is born.
- **1961:** Writes her autobiographical novel *The Bell Jar*. Son Nicholas is born.
- **1962:** Separates from Ted Hughes after discovering his affair. Moves to London with her children and produces her best work, including the poems in *Ariel*.

Death and Posthumous Acclaim

- **Jan 1963:** *The Bell Jar* is published in England under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas.
- **Feb 11, 1963:** Commits suicide in her London flat.
- **1965:** *Ariel*, a collection of her final poems, is published, establishing her reputation.
- **1982:** Awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *The Collected Poems*, the first posthumous Pulitzer in poetry.

Videos

01] Sylvia Plath - The Early Years - Biographical Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFXI024fj5c> [30:51]

02] Poetry and Co-dependency: The Poetry of Sylvia Plath - Professor Belinda Jack

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmArLszft3w> [52:10]

03] The Greatness of Sylvia Plath

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ0ZZaAfXOc> [59:49]



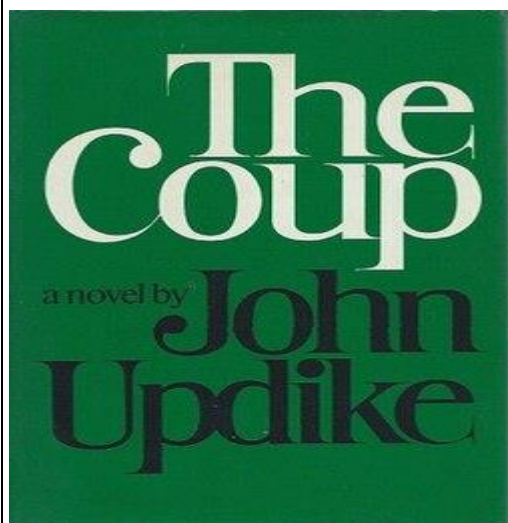
JOHN UPDIKE

(1932-2009)

"The writer must face the fact that ordinary lives are what most people live most of the time, and that the novel as a narration of the fantastic and the adventurous is really an escapist plot; that aesthetically, the ordinary, the banal, is what you must deal with."

The Coup

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Coup_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Coup_(novel))



The Coup is a 1978 novel by American author John Updike. It is a black comedy narrated by the former leader of a fictional Islamic country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a vehement hatred of all things American.

Summary

Hakim Felix Ellellou, ex-dictator of Kush, a fictional Islamic state in Sub-Saharan Africa, narrates the history of his life and his rule over his former desert empire from his current exile in France. With his drought ridden country ever on the verge of a humanitarian crisis, Ellellou's troubles begin when the hated Americans begin sending food aid to his starving people. The crazed dictator has the crates of food burned to keep out the Americans but his second-in-command turns against him, secretly negotiating a deal with the United States for rights to the country's oil.

Major Awards and Honors

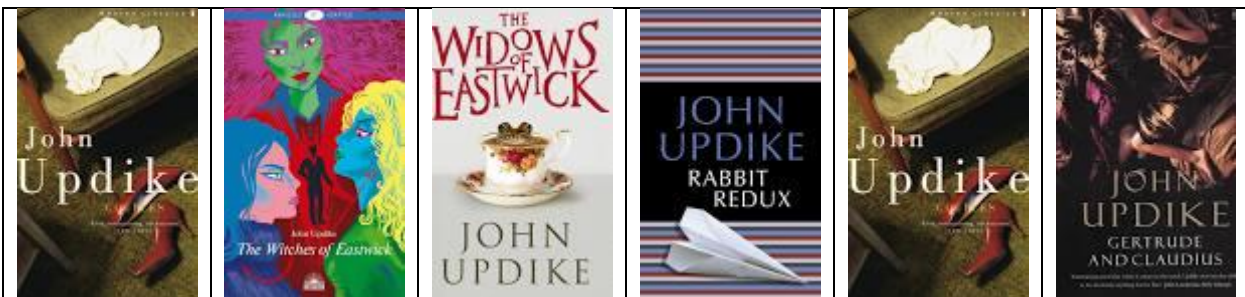
John Updike (1932–2009) was a highly decorated American author, most notably winning two Pulitzer Prizes for Fiction (*Rabbit Is Rich* in 1982 and *Rabbit at Rest* in 1991), the National Book Award (1964, 1982), and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He was acclaimed for his "Rabbit" series, poetry, and criticism.

Major Awards and Honors:

- **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2):** *Rabbit Is Rich* (1982) and *Rabbit at Rest* (1991).
- **National Book Award (2):** *The Centaur* (1964) and *Rabbit Is Rich* (1982).
- **National Book Critics Circle Award:** Multiple wins for fiction and criticism (1982, 1983, 1990).
- **National Medal of Arts (1989):** Awarded by President George H.W. Bush.
- **National Humanities Medal (2003):** Recognized for his profound impact on American literature.

- **PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction (2004)**: For *The Early Stories: 1953-1975*.
- **William Dean Howells Medal (2007)**: Awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Letters for the "Rabbit" saga.
- **Rea Award for the Short Story (2008)**: For outstanding achievement in the short story form.
- **Guggenheim Fellowship**: Awarded early in his career.

Updike was also honored with the Harvard Arts Medal (1998) and the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters from the National Book Foundation.



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/john-updike/_/N-2kdc
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/6878.John_Updike
- 03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/john-updike/>
- 04] <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/tip-sheet/article/68449-the-10-best-john-updike-books.html>
- 05] https://www.amazon.in/Books-John-Updike/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AJohn%2BUpdike

His Legacy

John Updike (1932–2009) left a profound legacy as one of the most prolific and celebrated American writers of the 20th century, renowned for his exquisite prose style and for chronicling suburban American life, infidelity, and faith. He is best known for the four-book "Rabbit" series, which won two Pulitzer Prizes and is considered a major literary contribution.

Key Aspects of Updike's Legacy:

- **The Rabbit Quartet:** The four novels about Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom (*Rabbit, Run*; *Rabbit Redux*; *Rabbit Is Rich*; *Rabbit at Rest*) are regarded as his masterpiece, offering an intense look at a middle-class American everyman navigating life and social change.
- **Chronicler of Suburbia & Sexuality:** Works such as *Couples* (1968) explored the breakdown of social mores, marital instability, and sex in suburbia, leading to fame and the label of chronicler of the "adulterous society".

- **Exquisite Prose Style:** Updike is widely admired for his elegant, precise, and thoughtful prose, often described as poetic realism.
- **Prolific Output:** In his lifetime, he published over 60 books, including dozens of novels, short story collections, poetry, and extensive literary criticism, largely for *The New Yorker*.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Beyond two Pulitzer Prizes, he received the National Book Award, the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, and is one of the few writers to win multiple Pulitzers.
- **Controversies & Critiques:** He faced criticism for his frank depictions of sex and was criticized by some, particularly feminists, for appearing to be misogynistic or obsessed with the sexual failings of his characters.

Updike remains a central figure in American literature, noted for his deep engagement with faith, morality, and the details of everyday American life.

The Rabbit Quartet

The Rabbit Quartet (or Rabbit Angstrom quartet) is a series of four acclaimed novels by John Updike—*Rabbit, Run* (1960), *Rabbit Redux* (1971), *Rabbit Is Rich* (1981), and *Rabbit at Rest* (1990)—which chronicle the life of Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom. They serve as a detailed portrait of American middle-class life and social change.

- **Plot:** The novels follow Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, a former high school basketball star in Pennsylvania, from his youth to his death, exploring his dissatisfaction, dysfunctional marriage, and pursuit of happiness.
- **Characters:** Harry is described as a "reflective and perceptive" man but also a "tiresome lecher" and "terrible father" who represents an ordinary American man struggling with change, sex, and death. Key supporting characters include his wife, Janice.
- **Significance:** The series offers a "running report" on American life from the 1950s to the 1980s, documenting shifting values and lifestyles.
- **Awards:** *Rabbit Is Rich* and *Rabbit at Rest* both won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.
- **Further Work:** In 2001, Updike published a follow-up novella, *Rabbit Remembered*.

The four novels are often collected together in one volume, titled *Rabbit Angstrom: The Four Novels*.

Videos

01] Arts: John Updike - A Life in Letters | The New York Times

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpnSiCJCxPE> [1:25:10]

02] Season 6: "Book Lunch": John Updike's "Rabbit" Novels, Episode 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqPEe1y43JO> [1:11:55]

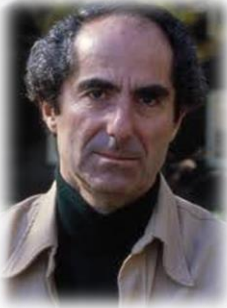
03] Readings from "Selected Letters of John Updike"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEwe4HFVInI> [1:03:15]

04] John Updike interview on his Life and Career (2004)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvEaru7Ttvs> [51:34]

As a boy growing up on a farm in Pennsylvania, he suffered from psoriasis and a stammer, ailments that set him apart from his peers. He found solace in writing, and won a scholarship to Harvard, where he edited the *Lampoon* humor magazine. He sold his first poem and short story to *The New Yorker* shortly after graduation.



PHILIP ROTH (1933-2018)

"My goal would be to find a big, fat subject that would occupy me to the end of my life, and when I finish it, I'll die. What's agony is starting; I hate starting them. I just want to keep writing now and end when it ends."

Literary Awards

Philip Roth (1933–2018) was one of the most decorated American novelists, winning the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for *American Pastoral*, two National Book Awards, three PEN/Faulkner Awards, and the 2011 Man Booker International Prize. He received the National Medal of Arts (1998) and the National Humanities Medal (2011) at the White House, plus the Gold Medal in Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Major Literary Awards

- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction: *American Pastoral* (1998).
- National Book Award: *Goodbye, Columbus* (1960) and *Sabbath's Theater* (1995).
- Man Booker International Prize: (2011).
- PEN/Faulkner Award: *Operation Shylock* (1994), *The Human Stain* (2001), and *Everyman* (2007).
- National Book Critics Circle Award: *The Counterlife* (1987).
- Franz Kafka Prize: Inaugural winner (2001).
- Gold Medal in Fiction (American Academy of Arts and Letters): 2002.
- PEN/Nabokov Award: 2006.
- PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction: 2007.
- Prince of Asturias Award (Spain): 2012.
- W.H. Smith Award (UK): *The Plot Against America* (2005).

Some Notable Movies

Several notable films and an acclaimed miniseries have been adapted from Philip Roth's novels, focusing on themes of American identity, lust, and mortality. Key adaptations include *Goodbye, Columbus* (1969), *The Human Stain* (2003), *Elegy* (2008), *American Pastoral* (2016), and the HBO miniseries *The Plot Against America* (2020).

Key Films Based on Philip Roth Works

- Goodbye, Columbus (1969): Based on his breakout 1959 novella, this romantic drama is often considered one of the most successful adaptations.

- [Portnoy's Complaint](#) (1972): An adaptation of his famous 1969 novel, directed by Ernest Lehman.
- [The Human Stain](#) (2003): Starring Anthony Hopkins and Nicole Kidman, focusing on a man hiding his racial identity.
- [Elegy](#) (2008): Based on the novella *The Dying Animal*, directed by Isabel Coixet and starring Ben Kingsley and Penélope Cruz.
- [The Humbling](#) (2014): Starring Al Pacino, based on the 2009 novel.
- [American Pastoral](#) (2016): Directed by and starring Ewan McGregor, adapting the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.
- [Indignation](#) (2016): Written and directed by James Schamus, based on the 2008 novel.
- [Deception](#) (2021): A French film titled *Tromperie*, based on the 1990 novel.

Notable Television Adaptations

- [The Plot Against America](#) (2020): A critically acclaimed HBO miniseries based on the counter-historical novel about a fascist United States.

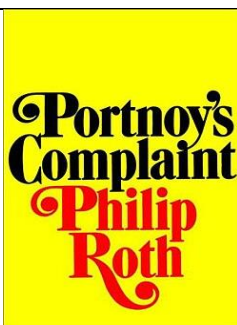
Other Projects

- [The Ghost Writer](#) (1984): A television movie adaptation.
- [Zuckerman Bound](#) (2020): A miniseries adaptation.

Note: There is also an actor named Phil Roth (1930–2002) who appeared in films like "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," but he is not the author Philip Roth.

Some Web Links for His Books

- 01] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Philip-Roth/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3APhilip%2BRoth
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/463.Philip_Roth
- 03] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/philip-roth/_/N-2kja
- 04] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/philip-roth/>
- 05] <https://fivebooks.com/best-books/best-philip-roth-books-ira-nadel/>
- 06] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Roth_bibliography



Portnoy's Complaint

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portnoy%27s_Complaint

Portnoy's Complaint is a 1969 American novel by [Philip Roth](#). Its success turned Roth into a major celebrity, sparking a storm of controversy over its explicit and candid treatment of sexuality, including detailed depictions of masturbation using various props. The novel tells the humorous monologue of "a lust-ridden, mother-addicted young Jewish bachelor", who confesses to his psychoanalyst in "intimate, shameful detail, and coarse, abusive language."

In 1998, the [Modern Library](#) ranked *Portnoy's Complaint* 52nd on its list of the [100 best English-language novels of the 20th century](#). [Time](#) included this novel in its "*TIME* 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005."

Timeline

Philip Roth (1933–2018) was a towering American novelist known for exploring Jewish-American identity, sexuality, and politics, often using his Newark, NJ upbringing and alter ego Nathan Zuckerman. Rising to fame with *Goodbye, Columbus* (1959) and *Portnoy's Complaint* (1969), he produced a prolific body of work, peaking with the late 1990s-2000s American Trilogy (*American Pastoral*).

Key Moments and Publications

- **1933:** Born on March 19 in Newark, New Jersey.
- **1954:** Graduated from Bucknell University.
- **1959:** Published *Goodbye, Columbus*, which won the National Book Award.
- **1962–67:** Published *Letting Go* and *When She Was Good*.
- **1969:** Published the highly controversial bestseller *Portnoy's Complaint*.
- **1970s:** Experimented with satire (*Our Gang*) and Kafkaesque works (*The Breast*).
- **1979–1986:** Introduced alter ego Nathan Zuckerman in *The Ghost Writer* and subsequent novels.
- **1991:** Published the acclaimed memoir *Patrimony*.
- **1995:** Won the National Book Award for *Sabbath's Theater*.
- **1997–2000:** Published his American Trilogy: *American Pastoral* (Pulitzer Prize), *I Married a Communist*, and *The Human Stain*.
- **2004:** Published alternate-history novel *The Plot Against America*.
- **2006:** A *New York Times* survey ranked him among the best American writers of the preceding 25 years.
- **2018:** Died on May 22 in New York City

Videos

01] Ninety-Nine Novels: Portnoy's Complaint by Philip Roth

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_b5p_tb36Y [41:24]

02] American Pastoral by Philip Roth, a book review and reading

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9-6rcD2SLM> [46:12]

03] The Ghost Writer by Philip Roth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzA8Ir2zuiM> [28:55]

04] "Goodbye, Columbus" (Part One) by Philip Roth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6zmzUgL8YM> [1:14:50]

This story is an irreverent look at the life of middle-class Jewish Americans. The story is told by the narrator, Neil Klugman, who is working in a low-paying position in the Newark Public Library. He lives with his Aunt Gladys and Uncle Max in a working-class neighborhood of Newark, New Jersey. One summer, Neil meets and falls for Brenda Patimkin, a student at Radcliffe College who is from a wealthy family living in the affluent suburb of Short Hills.



CHARLES WRIGHT

(1935 ~ ~)

"Power is not of a man. Wealth does not center in the person of the wealthy. Celebrity is not inherent in any personality. To be celebrated, to be wealthy, to have power requires access to major institutions."

Compiled by:

Kanmani CS <::> Reg No. 253313111002

Major Awards and Honors

Charles Wright is a highly decorated American poet, notable for winning the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and the 1998 National Book Critics Circle Award for his collection *Black Zodiac*. He also won the 1983 National Book Award for *Country Music* and served as the United States Poet Laureate from 2014-2015.

Major Awards and Honors:

- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry**: 1998 (*Black Zodiac*)
- **National Book Critics Circle Award**: 1997 (*Black Zodiac*)
- **National Book Award for Poetry**: 1983 (*Country Music: Selected Early Poems*)
- **United States Poet Laureate**: 2014–2015
- **Bollingen Prize for Poetry**: 2013
- **Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize**: 1993
- **Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize**: 1996 (*Chickamauga*)
- **PEN Translation Prize**: 1979 (for Eugenio Montale's *The Storm and Other Poems*)
- **Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry**: 2008

Wright is known for his prolific work, publishing over 20 collections of poetry, including the notable trilogies compiled in *Negative Blue*.

<https://griffinpoetryprize.com/poet/charles-wright/>

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Charles Wright, U.S. Poet Laureate: A Resource Guide

<https://guides.loc.gov/poet-laureate-charles-wright>

Introduction

Charles Wright, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2014-2016.

On June 12, 2014, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the appointment of Charles Wright as the 20th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. On making the appointment, Dr. Billington said:

Charles Wright is a master of the meditative, image-driven lyric. For almost 50 years his poems have reckoned with what he calls 'language, landscape, and the idea of God.' Wright's body of work combines a Southern sensibility with an allusive expansiveness, for moments of singular musicality.

Wright's inaugural reading as Poet Laureate occurred at the Library on September 25, 2014. His term concluded on April 30, 2015.

This guide provides access to selected print and online resources related to Charles Wright's life and work.



Web Links to Books

- 01] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/charles-wright>
- 02] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Charles-Will-Wright/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ACharles%2BWill%2BWright
- 03] <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/charles-wright.html>
- 04] <https://us.macmillan.com/author/charleswright>
- 05] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/charles-wright/266088/?srsltid=AfmBOoqQCHLQcL6h2313LI_woslzRuEvlC5rO9ey6sQ4rWHKrwGfbFP5

Biography of Charles Wright

Charles Wright (born August 25, 1935) is a renowned American poet celebrated for his lyrical, image-driven verse focusing on landscape, memory, and spirituality. Serving as U.S. Poet Laureate (2014-2015), he has published over 20 volumes, winning the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for works like *Black Zodiac* (1997).

Biography of Charles Wright (Poet)

- **Early Life & Education:** Born in Pickwick Dam, Tennessee, he attended Davidson College and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.
- **Influences:** While serving in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps in Italy (1957–1961), he began writing poetry, heavily influenced by Italian landscapes and Ezra Pound.
- **Career:**
He taught at the University of California, Irvine, and later the University of Virginia (1983–2010), residing in Charlottesville.
- **Style:** Known for meditations on nature, life, death, and God, often using a "landscape with figures" approach.

Awards and Accolades

- **Poet Laureate of the United States** (2014–2015).
- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry** (1998) for *Black Zodiac*.
- **National Book Award** (1983) for *Country Music: Selected Early Poems*.
- **Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry** (2008).
- **Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize** (1993).

Key Poetry Collections

- *The Grave of the Right Hand* (1970)
- *Country Music: Selected Early Poems* (1982)
- *Chickamauga* (1995)
- *Black Zodiac* (1997)
- *Appalachia* (1998)
- *A Short History of the Shadow* (2002)

Note: This biography refers to the poet Charles Wright, born in 1935, not the wrestler, speedway rider, or musician of the same name.

<https://imagejournal.org/article/conversation-charles-wright/>



Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

"Animals praise a good day, a good hunt. They praise rain if they're thirsty. That's prayer. They don't live an unconscious life, they simply have no language to talk about these things. But they are grateful for the good things that come along."

Compiled by:
Kanmani CS <::> Reg No. 253313111002

Major Awards and Honors

- [Pulitzer Prize for Poetry](#) (1984): Won for *American Primitive*.
- [National Book Award](#) (1992): Won for *New and Selected Poems*.
- [Shelley Memorial Award](#) (1969/70): Awarded by the Poetry Society of America.
- [Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship](#) (1980): Awarded for her poetry.
- [Lannan Literary Award](#) (1998): For poetry.
- [American Academy of Arts & Letters Award](#): Recognized for her literary achievements.
- [Goodreads Choice Award](#) (2012): Best Poetry for *A Thousand Mornings*.

Honorary Degrees and Memberships:

- [Honorary Doctorates](#): Awarded from The Art Institute of Boston (1998), Dartmouth College (2007), Tufts University (2008), and Marquette University (2012).
- [Phi Beta Kappa](#) (2003): Honorary membership from Harvard University.

Oliver was frequently cited as one of the best-selling poets in the United States, noted for her simple, accessible, and profound exploration of the natural world. Mary Oliver (1935-2019) was a celebrated American poet recognized for her nature-inspired poetry, earning the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for *American Primitive* and the 1992 National Book Award for *New and Selected Poems*. She received the Shelley Memorial Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lannan Literary Award, and multiple honorary doctorates.

Key Aspects of Her Legacy

Mary Oliver (1935-2019) left a legacy as a beloved, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet who championed nature, mindfulness, and the beauty of daily life through accessible, profound verse. As a "modern mystic," she encouraged readers to find joy and spiritual connection in the natural world, fostering a legacy of attentive, quiet reflection.

Key Aspects of Mary Oliver's Legacy:

- **Nature and Spirituality:** Her work, often compared to Thoreau and Whitman, celebrated the sacred in nature, urging readers to "be saved by the beauty of the world".
- **Accessible Poetry:** Oliver was known for using simple, clear language to address deep, universal themes, making her popular with a wide audience beyond academia.
- **Awards and Recognition:** She won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for [*American Primitive*](#) and the 1992 National Book Award for *New and Selected Poems*.
- **"Wild and Precious Life":** Her poem "The Summer Day" provided a lasting mantra for mindfulness and living intentionally, asking, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?".
- **Legacy of Mentorship:** She published over 25 books of poetry and prose and served as a teacher, with her papers now held at the Library of Congress.

Her enduring legacy continues to offer comfort and encouragement to live attentively and passionately in the natural world.



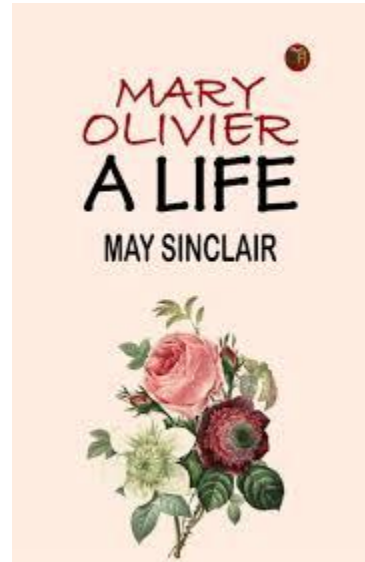
Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Mary-Oliver/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AMary%2BOliver
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/23988.Mary_Oliver
- 03] <https://www.waterstones.com/author/mary-oliver/82396>
- 04] <https://www.abebbooks.com/books/authors/mary-oliver/>
- 05] <https://www.nationalbook.org/people/mary-oliver/>

Mary Olivier: a Life

by May Sinclair (Author)

<https://www.amazon.in/Mary-Olivier-Life-May-Sinclair/dp/9360199885>



This novel follows the life and experiences of the protagonist, Mary Olivier, exploring her journey from childhood to adulthood. It is a psychological novel that delves into Mary's inner thoughts, emotions, and personal development, examining the influences and societal pressures that shape her life. May Sinclair was recognized for her innovative narrative techniques and her exploration of psychological realism in her works. "Mary Olivier: A Life" is regarded as one of Sinclair's significant contributions to literature due to its introspective and psychological depth, offering readers insights into the human mind and its complexities.

Great Writers

<https://youngwritersproject.org/challenges/great-writers/mary-oliver>



Oliver was born in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, where she spent many hours in the woods around her family's home. The theme of nature dominates Oliver's poetry, which uses simple words to beautiful effect. Her work was based in the Romantic nature tradition, and received acclaim for being clear and evocative, with dimensions of the self incorporated in her later work.

Oliver, a lesbian who had a longtime partner for most of her life, kept her personal life mostly private.

Oliver's poetry won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and a Lannan Literary Award for lifetime achievement.

Mary Oliver

"I got saved by the beauty of the world."

<https://onbeing.org/programs/mary-oliver-i-got-saved-by-the-beauty-of-the-world/>

The late poet Mary Oliver is among the most beloved writers of modern times. Amidst the harshness of life, she found redemption in the natural world and in beautiful, precise language. She won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award among her many honors — and published numerous collections of poetry and also some wonderful prose. Krista met with her in 2015 for this rare, intimate conversation. We offer it up anew, as nourishment.

Videos

01] Mary Oliver reads from *A Thousand Mornings*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsr3ZZzH-MA> [41:57]

02] A Tribute to Mary Oliver

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txQbcYNV4QM> [1:32:40]

A panel of poets whose works and lives have been impacted by Mary Oliver's work read from her poetry, shared some of their own work and participated in a Q&A. Mary Oliver was a prolific poet and writer, publishing a book almost every year or two, many of her works centering on the link between the spiritual and natural worlds. Oliver had strong ties to Massachusetts, making her home in Provincetown until her death earlier this year. Oliver's work is lauded for its accessibility. As she has herself said, "Poetry, to be understood, must be clear. It mustn't be fancy." Following the conversation, special guest poet Steven Ratiner presented an archival video of Mary Oliver reading one of her works.

03] Mary Oliver — Listening to the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkJTcB27hHI> [51:31]

Mary Oliver was one of our greatest and most beloved poets. She is often quoted by people across ages and backgrounds — and it's fitting, since she described poetry as a sacred community ritual. "When you write a poem, you write it for anybody and everybody," she said. Mary died on January 17, 2019, at the age of 83. She was a prolific and decorated poet whose honors included the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. In this 2015 conversation — one of the rare interviews she granted during her lifetime — she discussed the wisdom of the world, the salvation of poetry, and the life behind her writing.

04] Mary Oliver: *Great Souls, Great Prayers*

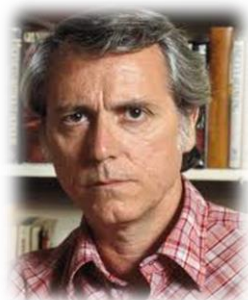
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTSB0Uy1fPk> [54:58]

05] Some Poems of Mary Oliver

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA-uyXyWpAk> [52:01]

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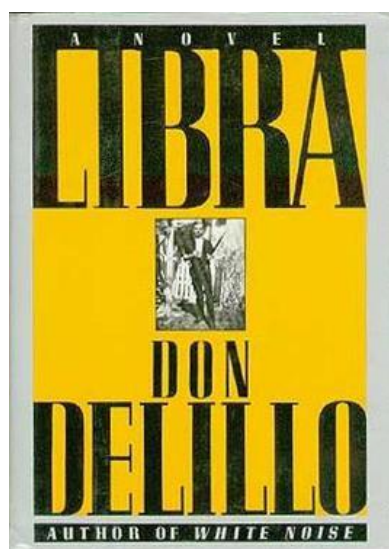
DON DELILLO

(1936 ~ ~)

"The true life is not reducible to words spoken or written, not by anyone, ever. The true life takes place when we're alone, thinking, feeling, lost in memory, dreamingly self-aware, the submicroscopic moments.."

Libra (novel)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libra_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libra_(novel))



Libra is a 1988 novel by Don DeLillo that describes the life of Lee Harvey Oswald and his participation in a fictional CIA conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. The novel blends historical fact with fictional supposition.

Libra received critical acclaim and earned DeLillo the inaugural Irish Times International Fiction Prize, as well as a nomination for the 1988 National Book Award for Fiction.

Awards & Honours

Don DeLillo is a highly acclaimed American novelist known for his postmodern fiction exploring consumerism, terrorism, and technology. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the National Book Award for *White Noise* (1985) and the PEN/Faulkner Award for *Mao II* (1992), along with the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction (2013) and the PEN/Saul Bellow Award (2010).

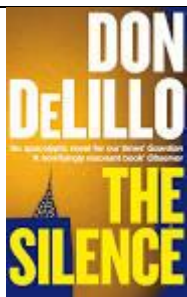
Major Awards and Honors

- **National Book Award for Fiction (1985):** Won for *White Noise*.
- **PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction (1992):** Won for *Mao II*.
- **Jerusalem Prize (1999):** Awarded for his body of work.
- **William Dean Howells Medal (1998):** Won for *Underworld*.

- **PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction (2010)**: Recognized for his impact on American literature.
- **Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction (2013)**: Awarded for a lifetime of work.
- **Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (2015)**: Awarded by the National Book Foundation.
- **Carl Sandburg Literary Award (2012)**: Awarded for his body of work.
- **Guggenheim Fellowship (1979)**: Recognized for his writing early in his career.

Notable Award Finalist/Shortlist Recognitions

- **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction**: Finalist for *Mao II* (1992) and *Underworld* (1998).
- **Man Booker International Prize**: Shortlisted in 2007.
- **The Story Prize**: Finalist for *The Angel Esmeralda* in 2011.



Web Links for the Books

- 01] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Don-DeLillo/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ADon%2BDeLillo
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/76757.Don_DeLillo_ranked
- 03] <https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Don-DeLillo/1098974>
- 04] <https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/don-delillo-beginner-s-guide>
- 05] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/don-delillo/_/N-2k7q

Film Adaptations

Don DeLillo movies are primarily screen adaptations of his acclaimed postmodern novels, focusing on themes of consumerism, media, and paranoia. The most notable films are Noah Baumbach's *White Noise* (2022) and David Cronenberg's *Cosmopolis* (2012), both adapted from his fiction. His works often examine American culture through a detached, media-saturated lens.

Here are the primary film adaptations and projects linked to Don DeLillo:

- **White Noise (2022):** Directed by Noah Baumbach, starring Adam Driver and Greta Gerwig. Adapted from the 1985 novel about a family navigating an "airborne toxic event".
- **Cosmopolis (2012):** Directed by David Cronenberg, starring Robert Pattinson as a billionaire traversing Manhattan.
- **Never Ever (2016):** Directed by Benoît Jacquot, based on the novel *The Body Artist*.
- **Underworld (In Development):** A film adaptation of his 1997 novel has been planned with director Ted Melfi.
- **Libra (In Development):** A series adaptation of his novel about the JFK assassination has been in the works.

Key Themes in DeLillo's Cinematic Fiction:

- **Media Saturation:** Novels like *White Noise* and *Underworld* explore how television and film shape perception.
- **The "Most Photographed Barn":** A famous scene in *White Noise* highlights the impact of mass photography on reality.
- **Surveillance and Paranoia:** Frequently featured in his writing, particularly relating to historical events.

Videos

01] Underworld by Don DeLillo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el285uJ1Cqw> [6:46:35]

02] Novelist Spotlight #156: Deconstructing master novelist Don DeLillo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5kVz7KVEdE> [1:11:04]

Ask literary critics to name the greatest American novelists of the past 50 years and Don DeLillo's name is sure to be there. DeLillo, now 87, has written more than 18 novels and has won awards ranging from the National Book Award and PEN/Faulkner Award to the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. Discussing his career during this episode are Jesse Kavadlo and Aaron DeRosa, both members of the Don DeLillo Society. Kavadlo is also a professor of English and humanities and the director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Maryville University of St. Louis, and DeRosa is also an assistant professor of 20th and 21st century American literature at California State Polytechnic University.

03] Why Don DeLillo Deserves the Nobel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIpMxLmBRVs> [1:02:16]

Don DeLillo is "our most necessary writer," says his longtime editor Gerald Howard, one whose "intuitions and sentences have led him deeper into previously uncharted regions of our psyche than any other contemporary novelist." Isn't it time the Swedish Academy took notice?

04] Don DeLillo on Underworld - The John Adams Institute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h01xhRxSJZO> [1:40:43]



LARRY MCMURTRY

(1936 - 2021)

"Members of the Academy are mostly urban people. We are an urban nation. We are not a rural nation. It's not easy even to get a rural story made."

Awards & Honors

Larry McMurtry (1936-2021) won one Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) at the 78th Academy Awards in 2006, sharing the honor with Diana Ossana. He was known for his prolific writing, including novels adapted into acclaimed films like *Terms of Endearment* and *The Last Picture Show*.

Academy Award Highlights

- **Winner:** Best Adapted Screenplay (*Brokeback Mountain*, 2005) at the 2006 Oscars.
- **Appearance:** Famously accepted the award wearing a dinner jacket over jeans and cowboy boots.
- **Speech:** Highlighted the importance of the original short story by E. Annie Proulx.
- **Other Oscar Connections:** While *Brokeback Mountain* was his only win, movies based on his novels—such as *Terms of Endearment* and *The Last Picture Show*—earned a combined total of 26 Oscar nominations and 10 wins.

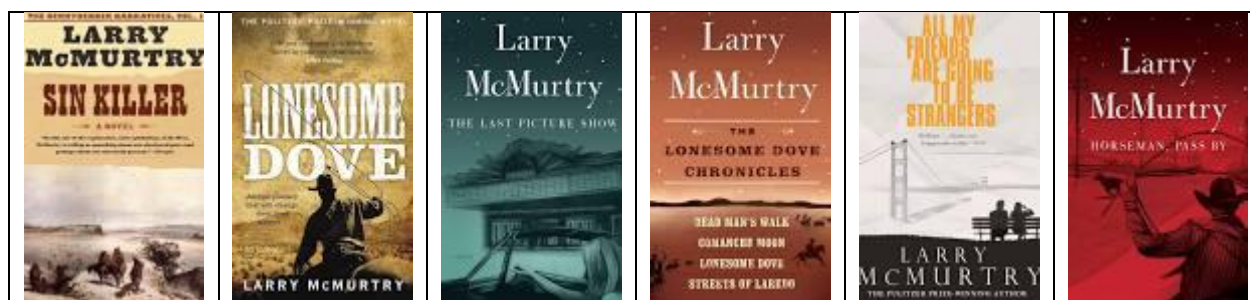
Other Major Awards

- **Golden Globe Award (2006):** Best Screenplay for *Brokeback Mountain*.
- **BAFTA Award (2006):** Best Adapted Screenplay for *Brokeback Mountain*.
- **Pulitzer Prize (1986):** Awarded for his novel *Lonesome Dove*.
- **National Humanities Medal (2014):** Awarded for his contributions to literature, particularly regarding the American West

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0573505/awards/?ref_=nmbio_ov_gl_2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX6fNoojvcM>





Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Larry-McMurtry/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ALarry%2BMcMurtry
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/1055.Larry_McMurtry
- 03] <https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Larry-McMurtry/547>
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/larry-mcmurtry/_/N-2key
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/larry-mcmurtry/>

COWBOYS & INDIANS

<https://www.cowboysindians.com/2021/03/celebrating-larry-mcmurtry-1936-2021/>

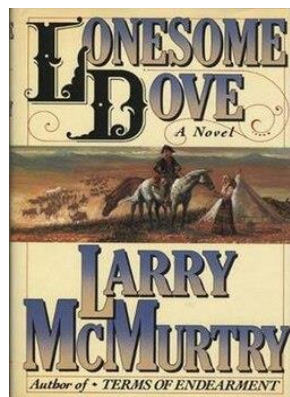
Celebrating LARRY MCMURTRY [1936-2021]

The Pulitzer Prize-winning "Lonesome Dove" author received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award of the Houston Film Critics Society.

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Lonesome Dove

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lonesome_Dove



Lonesome Dove is a 1985 epic Western novel by American writer Larry McMurtry. It is the first published book of the *Lonesome Dove* series and the third installment in the series chronologically. It was a bestseller and won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In 1989, it was adapted as a TV miniseries starring Tommy Lee Jones and Robert Duvall, which won both critical and popular acclaim. McMurtry went on to write a sequel, *Streets of Laredo* (1993), and two prequels, *Dead Man's Walk* (1995) and *Comanche Moon* (1997), all of which were also adapted as TV series.

The novel, set in the waning days of the Old West, centers on the relationships between several retired Texas Rangers and their adventures driving a cattle herd from Texas to Montana. The novel contains themes including old age, death, unrequited love, and friendship.

National Humanities Medal



The **National Humanities Medal** is an American award that annually recognizes several individuals, groups, or institutions for work that has "deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities."

WHITE HOUSE CITATION

'Larry McMurtry, for his books, essays, and screenplays. Mr. McMurtry's work evokes the character and drama of the American West with stories that examine quintessentially American lives.'

Videos

01] How I Became Larry McMurtry's Literary Torchbearer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB9xtNj8eKM> [1:07:05]

George Getschow, editor of Pastures of the Empty Page: Fellow Writers on the Life and Legacy of Larry McMurtry and writer-in-residence and director of the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, explores the late author Larry McMurtry's legacy. When asked why he champions McMurtry, Getschow explained, "Larry was our muse, guiding us, encouraging us, teaching us why literature mattered. He kept his four bookstores in Archer City open all night long so we could "hang out" with the 700,000 authors he had herded into four bookstores he created in Archer City. He urged us to immerse ourselves in the work of these authors, to model our writing after their best writing, and to make reading and storytelling our highest ambition." Using scenes of rural Texas as locations for many of his works, Larry McMurtry demonstrated a keen ability to transcend the limitations that typically confront regional writers. This skill enabled him to garner national attention and respect. The movie HUD, a recipient of three Oscars, was based on his first book Horseman Passed By. By age 27, McMurtry was recognized as a major literary figure. Through his works, McMurtry explored the complexities of relationships that can include comedy, unexpected betrayal, coming of age, loss and death.

02] Larry McMurtry, Booked Up

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NQyeRc0d_I [52:16]

Larry McMurtry was most widely known as an accomplished author, but his involvement in the literary field began when he started scouting rare books in the 1950s and 1960s. Even during his career as a writer and professor, he taught English and creative writing at Rice University. Larry continued his involvement in the rare book trade and opened up his own shop, Booked Up, in 1970. Larry was a member of the ABAA in 1974 until 1993.

03] Arts & Letters Live :: Larry McMurtry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsa1yEvE3Cg> [1:32:52]

Texas literary icon Larry McMurtry releases his new novel, The Last Kind Words Saloon, at this not-to-be-missed event! McMurtry will discuss his new work, his creative process, and his passion for book collecting, taking the stage with Diana Ossana, author and long-time collaborator with McMurtry, who co-wrote the Oscar-winning screenplay for Brokeback Mountain. Skip Hollandsworth, executive editor of Texas Monthly, will moderate an on-stage conversation. Actor Jeremy Schwartz will read short excerpts from the novel.

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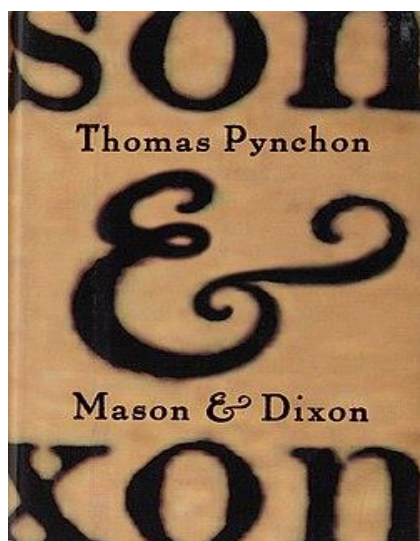
THOMAS PYNCHON

(1937 ~ ~)

"We have recently moved into an era when... everybody can share an inconceivably enormous amount of information just by stroking a few keys on a terminal."

Mason & Dixon

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mason_%26_Dixon



Mason & Dixon is a [postmodernist](#) novel by the American author [Thomas Pynchon](#), published in 1997. It presents a fictionalized account of the collaboration between [Charles Mason](#) and [Jeremiah Dixon](#) in their astronomical and surveying exploits in the [Dutch Cape Colony](#), [Saint Helena](#), [Great Britain](#) and along the [Mason-Dixon line](#) in [British North America](#) on the eve of the [Revolutionary War](#) in the United States.

The novel, written in a style based on late-18th-century English, is a [frame narrative](#) told from the focal point of Rev. Wicks Cherrycoke, a clergyman of dubious orthodoxy who, on a cold December evening in 1786, attempts to entertain and divert his extended family (partly for amusement, and partly to keep his coveted status as a guest in the house) by telling a [tall tale](#) version of Mason and Dixon's biographies (claiming to have accompanied Mason and Dixon throughout their journeys).

Awards & Honours

Thomas Pynchon is widely regarded as one of the most significant and influential American novelists of the postwar era, known for his dense, postmodern narratives that blend themes of paranoia, technocracy, and complex historical structures with humor.

Key honors and critical accolades throughout his career include:

- **National Book Award for Fiction (1974):** Awarded for his masterpiece, *Gravity's Rainbow*, which he shared with Isaac Bashevis Singer.
- **MacArthur Fellowship (1988):** Awarded a "genius grant" recognizing his significant contributions to literature.
- **William Faulkner Foundation Award (1963):** Received for his debut novel, *V.*, honored as the best notable first novel.

- **Pulitzer Prize Nomination (1974):** *Gravity's Rainbow* was recommended for the Pulitzer Prize by the fiction jury, but the advisory board overruled the decision, choosing to award no prize in the category that year.
- **Time "All-Time 100 Greatest Novels":** *Gravity's Rainbow* was named to this list, covering the best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005.
- **Literary Status:** He is frequently cited as a major contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Pynchon is also famous for his extreme reclusiveness, with few public photos existing and a consistent avoidance of public media, with the exception of two voice cameos on *The Simpsons*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Pynchon_bibliography

Adaptation into Films

Thomas Pynchon's work is famously adapted into film, most notably Paul Thomas Anderson's *Inherent Vice* (2014). Other adaptations include *One Battle After Another* (2025), a loose adaptation of *Vineland*, the German short *Prüfstand VII* (2002), and various unofficial or small-scale adaptations of his works like *The Crying of Lot 49*.

Key Films and Adaptations

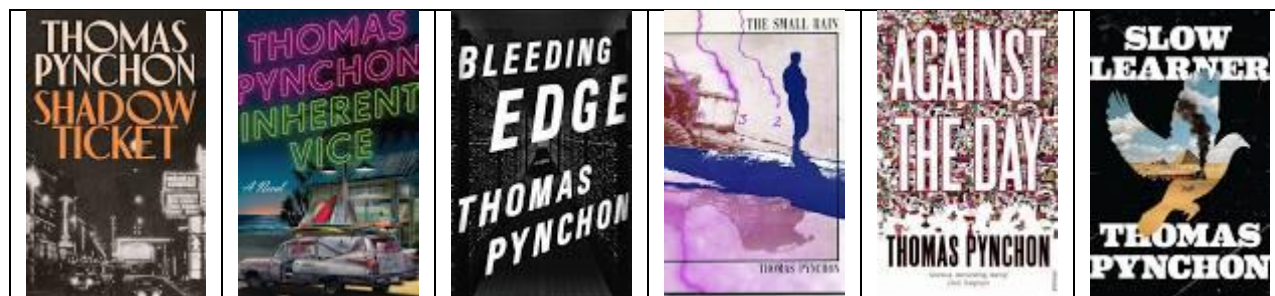
- **Inherent Vice (2014):** Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, this is the most prominent, direct adaptation of a Pynchon novel.
- **One Battle After Another (2025):** Also by Paul Thomas Anderson, this film is based on Pynchon's 1990 novel *Vineland*.
- **Prüfstand VII (2002):** A German film directed by Robert Bramkamp, loosely adapted from *Gravity's Rainbow*.
- **Shorts and Other:** There are various minor film projects related to Pynchon's work listed on IMDb, including *Chryskylodon Blues* (2015) and a 2013 adaptation of *V.* by Daniel Schrader.

Pynchonesque/Influenced Films

While not direct adaptations, many films are considered "Pynchonian" for their themes of paranoia, counterculture, and dense absurdity:

- ***The President's Analyst* (1967)**
- ***Repo Man* (1984)**
- ***The Big Lebowski* (1998)**
- ***Inherent Vice* (2014)** (also referenced as a model for this style)
- ***Under the Silver Lake* (2018)**

The author himself famously appeared in animated form on *The Simpsons*.



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.nytimes.com/article/thomas-pynchon-books.html>
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/235.Thomas_Pynchon
- 03] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/165720/thomas-pynchon>
- 04] https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/thomas-pynchon/199650/?srsltid=AfmBOopRBI_hTq1-7D36NdTq_-PQO9ZRivRXHd0N9kzhu25fanNccNKM
- 05] <https://www.bookswagon.com/author/thomas-pynchon?srsltid=AfmBOorl18zLt6xJXO2JqguVr2kI2AlmKAc771YONfGY8bTd9GNMyLs7>

Videos

- 01] GRAVITY'S RAINBOW by Thomas Pynchon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sERtP1W4kY> [3:33:08]
- 02] Ranking Every Thomas Pynchon Novel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nw_2XGzYwU8 [1:45:29]
- 03] Shadow Ticket: Reviewing Pynchon's Wild New Novel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaLHyFv69To> [1:03:44]
- 04] Let's Talk About Thomas Pynchon's V.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOkKsCpiYc8> [40:50]
- 05] Ninety-Nine Novels: Gravity's Rainbow by Thomas Pynchon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvyHnMs7Cz4> [56:50]

In 1984, Anthony Burgess published *Ninety-Nine Novels*, a selection of his favourite novels in English since 1939. The list is typically idiosyncratic, and shows the breadth of Burgess's interest in fiction. This podcast, by the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, explores the novels on Burgess's list with the help of writers, critics and other special guests. In this episode, Graham Foster of the Burgess Foundation talks to writer and academic Simon Malpas about *Gravity's Rainbow* by Thomas Pynchon. Published in 1973, *Gravity's Rainbow* has become one of the most revered American novels of the post-war period. It's a hard novel to summarise, the plot being a complicated tangle of characters and situations, self-referential twists and historical detail, riotous humour and pointed satire. In his review of *Gravity's Rainbow* in *Ninety-Nine Novels*, Anthony Burgess describes it as 'the war book to end them all', saying that it describes the obscenity of war in a way that was not available to the poets and novelists writing about the First World War. Simon is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at Edinburgh University, and has written an introduction to the work of Thomas Pynchon with Andrew Taylor which helps demystifying many of the themes and philosophies running through Pynchon's novels: *Thomas Pynchon* by Simon Malpas and Andrew Taylor is published by Manchester University Press and out now.





JOYCE CAROL OATES

(1938 ~ ~)

"For some reason, voters can be brainwashed, and they vote sometimes against their own best interests, let alone voting against the interests of people who need them, like people who are disenfranchised and people who are poor and so forth."

Awards & Honors

Joyce Carol Oates is a highly decorated American author, winner of the 1970 National Book Award (*them*), the 2010 National Humanities Medal, and the PEN/Malamud Award. Known for her prolific work, she has received the Bram Stoker Award, Prix Femina, and O. Henry Awards, alongside numerous Pulitzer Prize nominations.

Major Awards and Honors

- **[National Book Award for Fiction (1970)]**: For the novel *them*.
- **[National Humanities Medal (2010)]**: Awarded by President Obama for contributions to American literature.
- **PEN/Malamud Award (1996)**: For excellence in the art of the short story.
- **Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award (2009)**: National Book Critics Circle.
- **Prix Femina Étranger (2005)**: For the novel *The Falls*.
- **[Bram Stoker Awards]**: Lifetime Achievement (1994) and Best Novel for *Zombie* (1996).
- **O. Henry Awards**: Won multiple times for short fiction.
- **Norman Mailer Prize (2012)**: For Lifetime Achievement.
- **Jerusalem Prize (2019)**: For literature.
- **[Prix mondial Cino Del Duca (2020)]**: For her life's work.

Pulitzer Prize Nominations

- *The Wheel of Love* (1970)
- *Black Water* (1992)
- *What I Lived For* (1994)

- *Blonde* (2000)
- *Lovely, Dark, Deep* (2014)

Other Recognitions

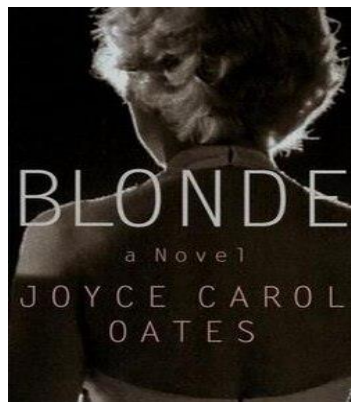
- **[[American Academy of Arts and Letters](#)]:** Member since 1978.
- **Golden Plate Award (1997):** American Academy of Achievement.
- **Humanist of the Year (2007):** American Humanist Association.
- **Honorary Doctorates:** Including Mount Holyoke College (2006) and University of Pennsylvania (2011).
- **Nobel Prize in Literature:** Frequently mentioned as a candidate.

Honorary Prize

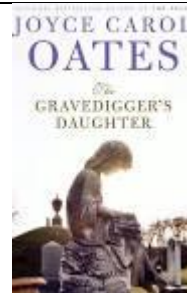
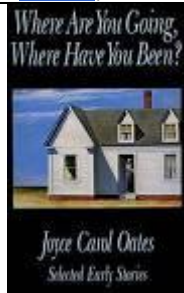
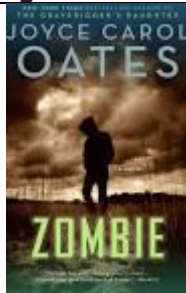
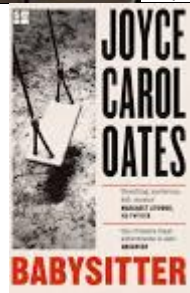
- **[[The Joyce Carol Oates Prize](#)]:** A \$50,000 prize awarded annually to a mid-career author by the New Literary Project.

[Blonde \(novel\)](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blonde_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blonde_(novel))



Blonde is a 2000 [biographical fiction](#) novel by [Joyce Carol Oates](#) that presents a fictionalized take on the life of American actress [Marilyn Monroe](#). Oates states that the novel is a work of fiction that should not be regarded as a biography. It was a finalist for the [Pulitzer Prize](#) (2001) and the [National Book Award](#) (2000). [Rocky Mountain News](#) and [Entertainment Weekly](#) have listed *Blonde* as one of Joyce Carol Oates's best books. Oates regards *Blonde* as one of the two books (along with 1969's [them](#)) she will be remembered for.



[Web Links for Books](#)

- 01] [https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/3524.Joyce Carol Oates](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/3524.Joyce_Carol_Oates)
- 02] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joyce Carol Oates bibliography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joyce_Carol_Oates_bibliography)
- 03] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/joyce-carol-oates/_/N-2zhl
- 04] <https://www.nationalbook.org/people/joyce-carol-oates/>
- 05] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Joyce-Carol-Oates/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AJoyce%2BCarol%2BOates

Ontario Review

Oates founded *The Ontario Review*, a literary magazine, in 1974 in Canada, with [Raymond J. Smith](#), her husband and fellow graduate student, who would eventually become a professor of 18th-century literature. Smith served as editor of this venture, and Oates served as associate editor. The magazine's mission, according to Smith, the editor, was to bridge the literary and artistic culture of the US and Canada: "We tried to do this by publishing writers and artists from both countries, as well as essays and reviews of an intercultural nature." In 1978, [Sylvester & Orphanos](#) published [A Sentimental Education](#), a collection of short stories.

In 1980, Oates and Smith founded Ontario Review Books, an independent publishing house. In 2004, Oates described the partnership as "a marriage of like minds – both my husband and I are so interested in literature and we read the same books; he'll be reading a book and then I'll read it – we trade and we talk about our reading at meal times .

Videos

01] A Chat with Joyce Carol Oates - Breathe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NElkoUXn2Nc> [1:25:49]

JCO and I have a discussion about her new novel "Breathe", writing about place, grief and the representation of time. It's such a pleasurable and enlightening experience chatting with such a great author.

02] Joyce Carol Oates: On Philosophy and Literature | Robinson's Podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGkBlmjAtYE> [1:00:59]

Joyce Carol Oates is the Rogers S. Berlind '52 Professor Emerita in the Humanities at Princeton University with the Program in Creative Writing. She is among the most widely-recognized and respected writers of our time, and has written in a wide variety of media and genres, from poetry and fiction in the former category to horror and Gothic in the latter. Her work has also been adapted into various other media, from plays to film. Joyce is the recipient of two O. Henry Awards and the National Book Award, among many others. This is Joyce's second appearance on Robinson's Podcast. In episode 137, she and Robinson discussed craft in fiction and poetry. In this episode, they talk about Joyce's most recent collection of short stories, *Zero-Sum* (link in the description), as well as philosophy, Peter Singer, dealing with criticism, translation, and more.

03] A Chat with Joyce Carol Oates - Zero Sum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hL1BB1hKPq4> [58:42]

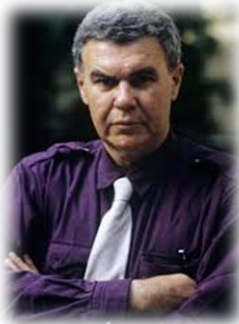
04] Joyce Carol Oates in Conversation with Jonathan Safran Foer: Letters to a Biographer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcBrw-Bva5w> [53:51]

05] Joyce Carol Oates [CC]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-8e4YmLs1w> [48:07]

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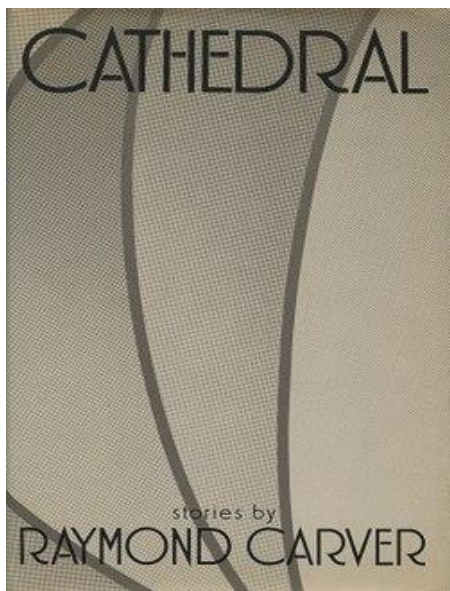
RAYMOND CARVER

(1938 - 1988)

"Most of my stories, if not all of them, have some basis in real life. That's the kind of fiction I'm most interested in. I suppose that's one reason I don't have much respect for fiction that seems to be game playing."

Cathedral (short story collection)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_\(short_story_collection\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_(short_story_collection))



Cathedral was enthusiastically received by critics. In *The New York Times book Review*, critic [Irving Howe](#) wrote:

Mr. Carver has been mostly a writer of strong but limited effects - the sort of writer who shapes and twists his material to a high point of stylization. In his newest collection of stories, *Cathedral*, there are a few that suggest he is moving toward a greater ease of manner and generosity of feeling; but in most of his work it's his own presence, the hard grip of his will, that is the strongest force. It's not that he imposes moral or political judgments; in that respect, he's quite self-effacing. It's that his abrupt rhythms and compressions come to be utterly decisive."

[The Washington Post](#) wrote that "there are no arid places in *Cathedral*. Instead there are a dozen stories that overflow with the danger, excitement, mystery and possibility of life."

Awards & Fellowships

Raymond Carver (1938-1988) was a renowned American short-story writer and poet who won the prestigious Mildred and Harold Strauss Living Award (1983), several O. Henry Awards, and was a finalist for the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. Memorials include a park and statue in his hometown of Clatskanie, Oregon.

Key Awards & Fellowships

- [Mildred and Harold Strauss Living Award \(1983\)](#): A major \$35,000 yearly stipend that allowed him to stop teaching and write full-time.

- [Guggenheim Fellowship](#) (1979): Supported his creative work.
- [National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\) Fellowship](#) (1971, 1980): In poetry and fiction.
- [Wallace Stegner Fellowship](#) (1972-73): Stanford University.
- [American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters](#) (1988): Inducted shortly before his death.
- [Brandeis University Creative Arts Award](#) (1988) & [Doctor of Letters from University of Hartford](#) (1988): Final honors.

Literary Recognition

- [National Book Award Nomination](#) (1977): Shortlisted for *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*.
- [Pulitzer Prize Nomination](#) (1984): Finalist for *Cathedral*.
- [O. Henry Awards](#): Won multiple times for stories such as "Are These Actual Miles" (1972), "Put Yourself in My Shoes" (1974), "Are You A Doctor?" (1975), "A Small, Good Thing" (1983), "Errand" (1988), and posthumously in 1999.
- [Levinson Prize](#): Awarded by *Poetry* magazine for his poetry collections.

Memorials and Legacy

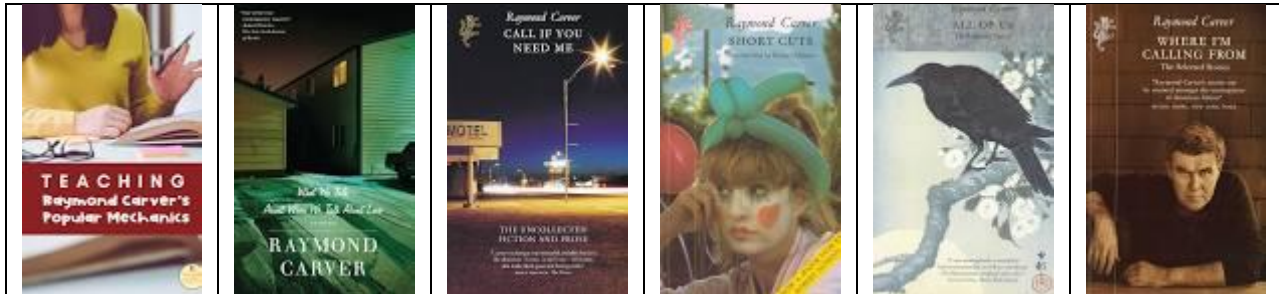
- [Raymond Carver Park \(Clatskanie, OR\)](#): A memorial park and statue dedicated in the late 2000s in his birthplace.
- [Raymond Carver Reading Series](#): Held at Syracuse University, where he once taught.
- ["Shortcuts" Film](#) (1993): Robert Altman film based on his stories, which significantly increased his posthumous fame.

Films and Theatre Adaptations

- *I Could See the Smallest Things...* a 1982 [Clark University](#) stage production based on five stories from Carver's *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*
- [Short Cuts](#) directed by [Robert Altman](#) (1993), based on nine Carver short stories and a poem
- [Everything Goes](#) directed by Andrew Kotatko (2004), starring [Hugo Weaving](#), [Abbie Cornish](#) and [Sullivan Stapleton](#) based on Carver's short story "[Why Don't You Dance?](#)"
- [Jindabyne](#) directed by [Ray Lawrence](#) (2006), based on Carver's short story "So Much Water So Close to Home"
- [Everything Must Go](#) directed by Dan Rush (2010), and starring [Will Ferrell](#), based on Carver's short story "Why Don't You Dance?"
- [Birdman or \(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance\)](#), directed by [Alejandro G. Iñárritu](#), depicts the mounting of a Broadway production of "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love" as its central storyline. The film's main character, Riggan Thomson, attributes his choice of acting as a profession

to a complimentary note he once received from Raymond Carver written on a cocktail napkin. The film also preludes with Carver's poem "Late Fragment." In February 2015, *Birdman* won four Oscars, including the [Academy Award for Best Picture](#).

- [Whoever Was Using This Bed](#), directed by Andrew Kotatko (2016), starring [Jean-Marc Barr](#), [Radha Mitchell](#) and [Jane Birkin](#), based on Carver's short story of the same name.



Web Links for Books

- 01] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/4431/raymond-carver/>
- 02] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/raymond-carver/>
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/7363.Raymond_Carver
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/raymond-carver/_/N-2kjq
- 05] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Raymond-Carver/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ARaymond%2BCarver

Videos

- 01] **What We Talk about When We Talk about Love by Raymond Carver**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LPkP43TkGA> [51:48]

People. Raymond Carver's short fiction is so good that it's pretty much responsible for the American short story heyday in the 1980s. Listen in to hear why the content and the STYLE are what make Carver entirely inimitable and so compelling.

- 02] **The Life of Raymond Carver documentary with Rare Interview (1989)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mjuSh--24o> [58:58]

Hailed as the American Chekhov and short-listed for a Pulitzer Prize at the time of his death, only ten years earlier Raymond Carver had been completely down and out. In this vintage program filmed just a year after he died, Carver's second wife, Tess Gallagher, and writers Jay McInerney and Richard Ford, his close friends, explore Carver's artistic legacy: his stories and poems about the other side of the American Dream. In addition, excerpts from two of Carver's most famous stories are dramatized. "No one since Steinbeck had written about these people," says McInerney, "the people whose dreams go belly-up."

- 03] **Story Time: Raymond Carver's Short Story, "Cathedral" Audiobook American Male Voice**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9D9rMKQc44> [34:23]

- 04] **Raymond Carver - Dreams Are What You Wake Up From**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPPONihIU80> [59:03]

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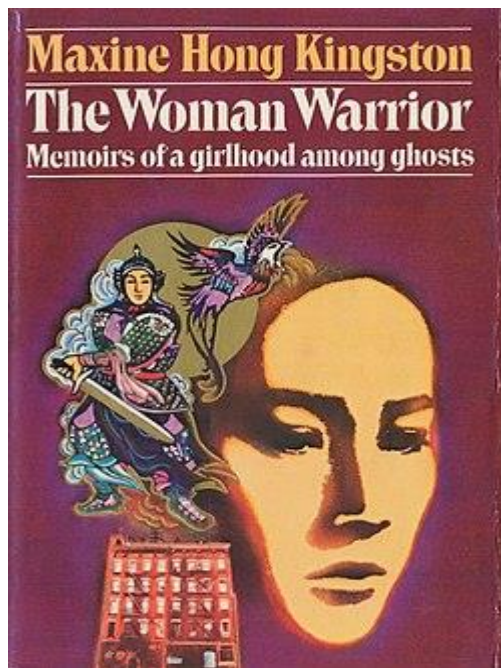
MAXINE HONG KINGSTON

(1940 ~ ~)

"There can't be a pure myth, especially when the myth has been handed down in the oral tradition. As the stories are told, they change. If the stories don't change, they just die."

The Woman Warrior

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Woman_Warrior



The specific genre of *The Woman Warrior* has been disputed due to Kingston's blend of perspectives, specifically traditional Chinese folktale and memoir. With this mixture, Kingston tries to provide her audience with the cultural, familial, and personal context needed to understand her unique position as a first-generation Chinese-American woman.

Susan Stanford Friedman's assessment of autobiography with regard to women and minority groups explains Kingston's intricate blend of perspective and genre: women and cultural minorities often don't have the privilege of viewing themselves as individuals isolated from their gender or racial group. Kingston illustrates this condition through her use of Chinese talk-story, her mother's traditional Chinese perspective, and her own

first-person view as a Chinese American.

Awards & Honours

Maxine Hong Kingston is a celebrated author honored with the National Medal of Arts (2013), National Humanities Medal (1997), and the National Book Award (1981). Known for [*The Woman Warrior*](#), she received the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (2008) and the Emerson-Thoreau Medal.

Major Awards and Honors:

- [National Medal of Arts](#) (2013), presented by President Obama.
- [National Humanities Medal](#) (1997), presented by President Clinton.
- [National Book Award](#) for Nonfiction (1981) for *China Men*.
- [Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters](#) (2008) from the

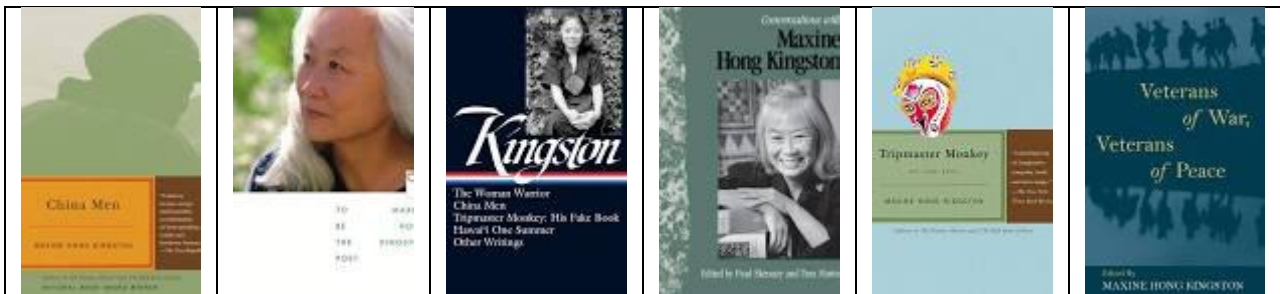
National Book Foundation.

- [Emerson-Thoreau Medal](#) (2023) from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) (2006) from the Asian American Literary Awards.
- [Fitzgerald Award for Achievement in American Literature](#) (2011).
- [Living Treasure of Hawaii](#) (1980).
- [National Endowment for the Arts Writers Award](#) (1980, 1982).

Kingston's work, particularly *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, is considered a foundational piece of American literature addressing gender and Chinese American identity. She is also a Professor Emerita at the University of California, Berkeley.

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.neh.gov/about/awards/national-humanities-medals/maxine-hong-kingston>
- 02] <https://www.chapman.edu/research/institutes-and-centers/john-fowles-center/fowles-speakers/maxine-hong-kingston.aspx>
- 03] <https://www.loa.org/writers/785-maxine-hong-kingston/>
- 04] <https://www.jstor.org/stable/489888>
- 05] <https://billmoyers.com/content/maxine-hong-kingston-part-1/>
- 06] <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-francaise-d-etudes-americaines-2006-4-page-97?lang=en>



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/17290.Maxine_Hong_Kingston
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/15761/maxine-hong-kingston/>
- 03] <https://www.nationalbook.org/people/maxine-hong-kingston/>
- 04] <https://www.loa.org/writers/785-maxine-hong-kingston/>
- 05] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/maxine-hong-kingston>

Maxine Hong Kingston on Memory, Meditation and Magic (Part One)

<https://billmoyers.com/content/maxine-hong-kingston-part-1/>

When Maxine Hong Kingston was growing up in Stockton, Calif., she listened to her parents' stories and memories of their native China. In her highly acclaimed memoirs, *The Woman Warrior* and *China Men*, she linked those tales of tradition to the story of her own American experience, blending childhood memory, meditation and magic. They are among the most widely taught books by a living American author on college campuses today.

Videos

01] An Evening with Maxine Hong Kingston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjJ1sYbUYVI> [1:34:14]

Called an "Asian-American literary pioneer, whose writing has paved the way for many immigrants' stories" (*The New Yorker*), groundbreaking novelist, poet, and memoirist Maxine Hong Kingston is the author of award-winning and influential autobiographies *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts* and *China Men*, which blurred the lines between nonfiction and fiction. She is also the author of the novel *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book* and editor of the anthology *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace*, compiled from the work of participants in the therapeutic poetry workshops she has led for more than 500 veterans of war.

02] Lunch Poems: Maxine Hong Kingston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeaOmyZk4U0> [55:22]

Maxine Hong Kingston burst on the literary scene in 1976 with her book, *"The Woman Warrior"*. A UC Berkeley graduate and professor, she has delighted audiences with books such as *"China Men"* and *"Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book"*. In recent years she has started to write more poetry, including *"To Be the Poet"* from Harvard University Press. Series: "Lunch Poems Reading Series"

03] CITY LIGHTS LIVE! James Janko in conversation with Maxine Hong Kingston

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ul75Jp8_rFI [1:08:05]

04] California Book Club: Maxine Hong Kingston

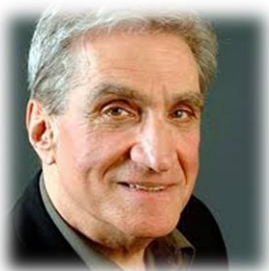
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PD4HMIxP3o> [1:09:15]

Maxine Hong Kingston's novel *"The Woman Warrior"* is the California Book Club's October 2021 selection. Kingston's 1976 debut is a tour de force, a book that mixes myth and memory and helped establish memoir as a literary form in its own right. In five impressionistic chapters, Kingston uses talk story—a fluid, improvisational approach to narrative—to highlight the flexibility, or elusiveness, of identity. The book opens with an admonition: "You must not tell anyone," my mother said." From there, Kingston goes on not only to tell but also to reimagine, beginning with her father's unnamed sister, who had a child out of wedlock while living in her family's ancestral Chinese village and drowned herself and the baby in a well. By reclaiming this story and others, including those of her childhood in Stockton, Kingston gives depth and breadth to an extraordinary set of lives.

05] Maxine Hong Kingston | *The Woman Warrior*, *China Men*, *Tripmaster Monkey*, Other Writings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0apDIStQdq> [59:29]

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ROBERT PINSKY

(1940 ~ ~)

"New Jersey is the most poetic state: close enough to New York to be urban and cosmopolitan, far enough to be desirous and unsure; densely populated, but full of farms and woods, with the most deer of any state."

Honours & Awards

Robert Pinsky is a highly decorated American poet, translator, and critic, best known for his unprecedented three-term service as the United States Poet Laureate. His accolades include major national and international poetry awards, fellowships, and membership in prestigious arts academies.

Highest Honours and Roles

- **United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry (1997–2000):** Appointed for an unprecedented three consecutive terms by the Library of Congress.
- **Founder of The Favorite Poem Project:** Established during his Laureateship to celebrate poetry's role in American lives.
- **Chancellor for the Academy of American Poets (2004–2010):**
- **Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters:**
- **Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences:**

Major Awards and Prizes

- **Top Poetry Honors:** Winner of the PEN/Voelcker Award, Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize (for *The Figured Wheel*), William Carlos Williams Prize, and the Shelley Memorial Award.
- **International Awards:** Recipient of the Korean Manhae Award and Italy's Premio Capri.
- **Translation and Other Awards:** Honored with the L.A. Times Book Award and Howard Landon Prize for his *Inferno* translation, the Saxifrage Prize, and the Golden Plate Award.

Fellowships and Nominations

- **Recognition:** Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award.
- **Fellowships:** Recipient of honors from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Wallace Stegner Fellowship.

Robert Pinsky Poet

<https://robertpinskypoet.com/>

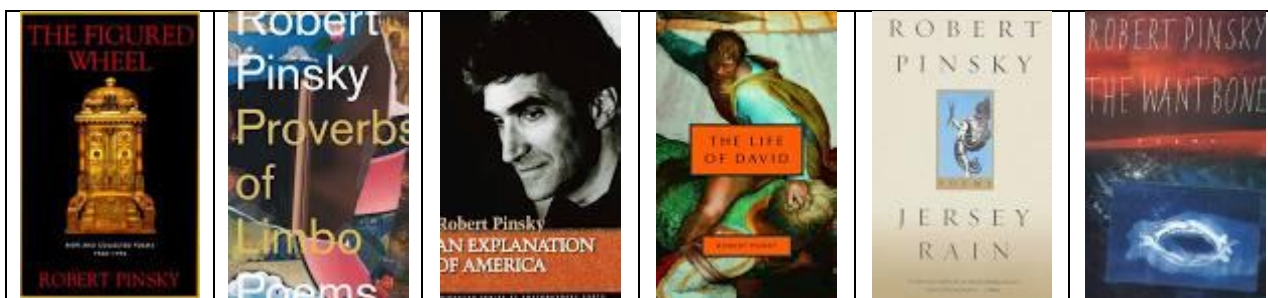
Robert Pinsky is a poet, essayist, translator, teacher, and speaker. His first two terms as United States Poet Laureate were marked by such visible dynamism—and such national enthusiasm in response—that the Library of Congress appointed him to an unprecedented third term. Throughout his career, Pinsky has been dedicated to identifying and invigorating poetry's place in the world.

Known worldwide, Pinsky's work has earned him the PEN/Voelcker Award, the William Carlos Williams Prize, the Lenore Marshall Prize, Italy's Premio Capri, the Korean Manhae Award, and the Harold Washington Award from the City of Chicago, among other accolades.

Pinsky is a professor of English and creative writing in the graduate writing program at Boston University. In 2015 the university named him a William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor, the highest honor bestowed on senior faculty members who are actively involved in teaching, research, scholarship, and university civic life.

Some Useful Web Links

- 01] <https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/poet-laureate/poets-laureate/item/n83039273/robert-pinsky/>
- 02] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robert-pinsky>
- 03] <https://www.newyorker.com/contributors/robert-pinsky>
- 04] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/robert-pinsky/>
- 05] <https://robertpinskypoet.com/>
- 06] <https://www.bu.edu/creativewriting/profile/robert-pinsky/>
- 07] <https://www.barclayagency.com/speakers/robert-pinsky>
- 08] <https://poems.com/features/what-sparks-poetry/robert-pinsky/>
- 09] <https://www.carcenet.co.uk/author/robert-pinsky/>



Web Links for the Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/11523.Robert_Pinsky
- 02] <https://us.macmillan.com/author/robertpinsky>
- 03] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robert-pinsky>
- 04] <https://www.norton.co.uk/search/contributors?q=Robert+Pinsky>
- 05] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Robert-Pinsky/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ARobert%2BPinsky



His Quotable QUOTES

Robert Pinsky, a former US Poet Laureate, is known for championing poetry as a physical, vocal art and for his accessible approach to literature. His quotes often highlight the bodily nature of poetry, the importance of voice, and the role of art in daily life, emphasizing that poetry is essential rather than ornamental.

On Poetry and the Body

- "Poetry is the most bodily of the arts."
- "The medium of poetry is a human body: the column of air inside the chest, shaped into signifying sounds in the larynx and the mouth."
- "When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations."

On Writing and Sound

- "To me, writing is a matter of voice... Somewhere on the line between speaking to you as I am now and actual song."
- "A sentence is like a tune. A memorable sentence gives its emotion a melodic shape."
- "The best anthology is the one each reader compiles, personally, according to his or her judgment, pleasure and awe."

Videos

01] A Conversation with Robert Pinsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDDqDGvrvAA> [50:55]

02] Poet Robert Pinsky reads, February 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCGOMJJJs6g> [1:03:04]

Celebrated poet Robert Pinsky reads from his work, including his new memoir, *Jersey Breaks: Becoming an American Poet*, which offers a candid, engaging, and wry self-portrait and a unique reflection of American culture. Pinsky served as Poet Laureate to the Library of Congress from 1997 to 2000. He is the author of 19 books, most of which are collections of his poetry. His published work also includes critically acclaimed translations of Dante Alighieri's *Inferno* and Czesław Miłosz's *The Separate Notebooks*. He teaches at Boston University.

03] Robert Pinsky Retirement Poetry Reading: A Celebration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9N1MjqXNso> [1:01:50]

04] Reading: Robert Pinsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edULcebElCI> [1:03:15]

05] Poet Robert Pinsky's "Proverbs of Limbo"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7rkLf_uqaA [1:39:34]



BHARATI MUKERJEE

(1940 -2017)

"As a bookish child in Calcutta, I used to thrill to the adventures of bad girls whose pursuit of happiness swept them outside the bounds of social decency. Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Emma Bovary and Anna Karenina lived large in my imagination. The naughty girls of Hollywood films flirted and knew how to drive."

Awards

Bharati Mukherjee (1940-2017) was a celebrated Indian-American author, best known for winning the prestigious 1988 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction for her short story collection, *The Middleman and Other Stories*. She was the first naturalized U.S. citizen to win this award in that category.

Key Awards and Honors:

- **National Book Critics Circle Award (1988):** Fiction, for *The Middleman and Other Stories*.
- **Guggenheim Fellowship (1977):** Awarded for her work.
- **Canada Arts Council Grant (1973, 1977):**.
- **Pushcart Prize (1999):**.
- **Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (2013):** Awarded by Whittier College.
- **2008 Achievement Award:**.

She was recognized for her significant contributions to literature regarding the immigrant experience, cultural transformation, and the American experience.



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA Academic
Senate

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/in-memoriam/files/bharati-mukherjee.html>

In Memoriam
Bharati Mukherjee
Professor of English, Emeritus
UC Berkeley
1940-2017

Bharati Mukherjee died in New York City on January 28, 2017, from complications of rheumatoid arthritis. She is survived by her husband, the Canadian novelist Clark Blaise. The couple had two children, Bernard and Bart, who predeceased his mother by a year.

Professor Mukherjee joined the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1989. She had published two novels, *The Tiger's Daughter* and *Wife*, two works of nonfiction in collaboration with her husband, *Days and Nights in Calcutta* and *The Sorrow and the Terror*, a prescient account of the terrorist attack on Air India Flight 182 in 1985, and two books of stories, *Darkness* and *The Middleman and Other Stories*, which had just won the National Book Critic's Circle Award in fiction. After her arrival at Berkeley, she published another half dozen novels, *Jasmine*, *The Holder of the World*, *Leave It to Me*, *Desirable Daughters*, *The Tree Bride*, and *The Miss New India* and found time to publish some 30 essays, which are yet to be collected and which reflect her wide interest in the Indian diaspora, immigrant experience in America and trans-globally, the tensions between immigrant and expatriate ways of defining a writer in this age, marriage, family, the politics of the Indian subcontinent, especially women's issues, and the art of the novel. In her last decade she published another 10 stories and a book—*Conversations with Bharati Mukherjee*, and a number of book reviews.

Her Famous Works

Bharati Mukherjee (1940–2017) was a celebrated Indian-American author known for exploring themes of immigration, identity, and the transformation of the American experience. Her most famous works include the novel *Jasmine* (1989), the award-winning short story collection *The Middleman and Other Stories* (1988), and *Desirable Daughters* (2002).

Famous Novels

- ***Jasmine* (1989)**: A novel following a young Indian widow's journey and transformation in the United States.
- ***Desirable Daughters* (2002)**: Explores the complex, shifting identities of three sisters in a changing Indian-American context.
- ***The Holder of the World* (1993)**: A historical novel tracing a modern woman's research into a female ancestor's life.
- ***Wife* (1975)**: Follows a Bengali woman's mental breakdown after moving to the U.S..
- ***The Tree Bride* (2004)**: A sequel to *Desirable Daughters*, continuing the story of Tara Lata.
- ***The Tiger's Daughter* (1971)**: Her debut novel about an Indian woman returning to India after marrying an American.
- ***Leave It to Me* (1997)**: Focuses on a woman's search for her biological parents.

Short Story Collections

- ***The Middleman and Other Stories* (1988)**: Won the National Book Critics Circle

Award, highlighting immigrant lives in America.

- **Darkness (1985)**: A collection exploring the feelings of alienation and exile.

Non-Fiction & Collaboration

- **Days and Nights in Calcutta (1977)**: A travelogue written with her husband, Clark Blaise, detailing their time in India.
- **The Sorrow and the Terror (1987)**: A non-fiction investigation into the 1985 Air India plane bombing.

Mukherjee's writing is often praised for its intense focus on the psychological struggles of immigrants balancing their past culture with their new American lives.

Videos

01] Bharati Mukherjee and Clark Blaise - Story Hour in the Library

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2zZ4VIWGOM> [54:46]

Born in 1940 in Calcutta, Bharati Mukherjee spent her childhood in India and Britain before moving to the United States. Her celebrated titles include *Days and Nights in Calcutta* and *The Middleman* and *Other Stories*. Clark Blaise has published numerous works of fiction and nonfiction, including *If I Were Me* and *Lunar Attractions*. Both serve as faculty in Berkeley's English department, and they have been married to each other for 45 years.

02] Lecture 42: Bharati Mukherjee

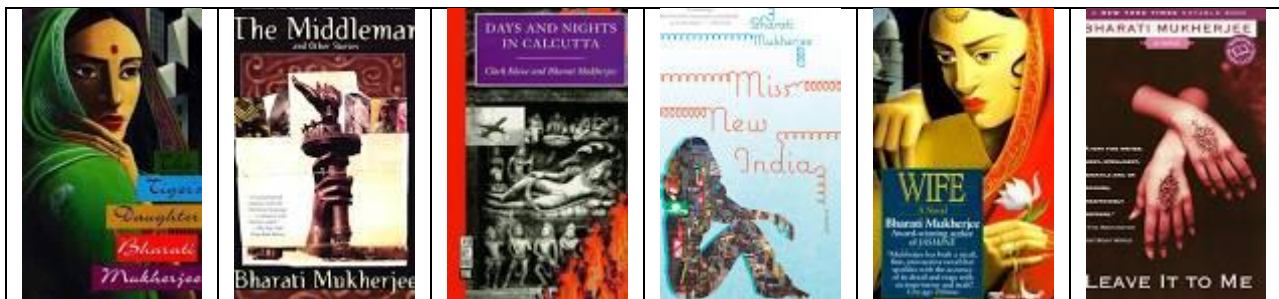
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMbQQa-Dvjo> [43:45]

You are welcome to the course "The Fiction of Indian Diaspora". The course is designed for the UG, PG, PhD students and working professionals having an interest in the Indian diaspora. It highlights the different dimensions of the Indian Diaspora and discusses the theorisation of Diaspora and analyses the fictions of Indian Diasporic writers that include V. S. Naipaul, Salman Rushdie, Bharati Mukherjee, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai and several others.

03] Lecture 45: : Bharati Mukherjee's Desirable Daughters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBNzDv9IOoM> [36:07]

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Web Links for Books

01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/13942.Bharati_Mukherjee

02] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Bharati-Mukherjee/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ABharati%2BMukherjee

03] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/bharati-mukherjee/>

04] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/21513/bharati-mukherjee/>

05] https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL822729A/Bharati_Mukherjee



Anne Tyler
PHOTO CREDIT: Diana Walker

ANNE TYLER

(1941 ~ ~)

"I would advise any beginning writer to write the first drafts as if no one else will ever read them - without a thought about publication - and only in the last draft to consider how the work will look from the outside."

Compiled by:

Sri B <::> Reg No. 253313111001

Honours & Awards

Anne Tyler is a highly acclaimed American novelist known for her domestic fiction set in Baltimore, most notably winning the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Breathing Lessons*. She has been a Pulitzer finalist twice and shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize and the Booker Prize.

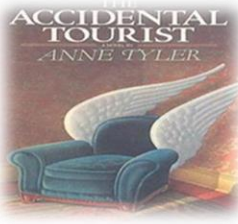
Major Awards and Honors

- [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#) (1989): Winner for *Breathing Lessons*.
- [Pulitzer Prize Finalist](#): *The Accidental Tourist* (1985) and *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (1982).
- [The Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence](#) (2012): Awarded for a lifetime contribution to literature.
- [Man Booker International Prize](#) (2011): Shortlisted for her entire body of work.
- [The Booker Prize](#) (2015): Shortlisted for *A Spool of Blue Thread*.
- [The Booker Prize](#) (2020): Longlisted for *Redhead by the Side of the Road*.
- [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) (1985): Won for *The Accidental Tourist*.
- [PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction](#) (1983): Won for *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*.
- [Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize](#) (1980): Won for *Morgan's Passing*.
- [American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Literature](#) (1977): Honored for her work.
- Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Key Recognitions

- Nominated by authors Roddy Doyle and Nick Hornby as "the greatest novelist writing in English" (1994).

- Her works have been frequently adapted for film and television, including the Oscar-winning adaptation of *The Accidental Tourist*.



The Accidental Tourist
The Accidental Tourist is a 1985 novel by Anne Tyler and a 1988 film adaptation about Macon Leary, a travel writer who despises travel, navigating grief after his son's death and his wife leaving. He is forced out of his rigid, solitary routine by a quirky dog trainer named Muriel, allowing him to reconnect with life.

Novel and Film Details

- **Author:** Anne Tyler (1985).
- **Film Director:** Lawrence Kasdan.
- **Key Cast (Film):** William Hurt (Macon Leary), Geena Davis (Muriel Pritchett), Kathleen Turner.
- **Awards:** The film was nominated for Best Picture, and Geena Davis won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress (1989).

This is the TRAILER for the 1988 film adaptation of
"The Accidental Tourist"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRENOT13vBM&t=10s>

Key Themes and Plot

- **Grief and Routine:** Following the death of his son and separation from his wife, Macon retreats into an intensely structured, solitary existence.
- **The "Accidental" Life:** Macon writes travel guides for business people who hate traveling, focusing on how to avoid the local culture and find places that feel exactly like home.
- **Transformation:** Muriel Pritchett, an eccentric, needy, and vulnerable dog trainer, forces Macon to engage with the unpredictable, messy, and emotional aspects of life.

Note on Confusion

- *The Accidental Tourist* is also a famous humorous essay by **Bill Bryson** (often studied in CBSE Class 9), which details a clumsy traveler's mishaps. It is entirely distinct from Anne Tyler's novel.

Awards

Tyler has been a member of the [American Academy of Arts and Letters](#) since 1983.^[49] for *Morgan's Passing* (1980):

- Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize for Fiction

- nominated, American Book Award for Fiction
 - nominated, National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction
- for *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (1982):
- Finalist, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
 - Finalist, PEN/Faulkner Award
 - Finalist, American Book Award for Fiction
- for *The Accidental Tourist* (1985):
- 1985 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction
 - 1986 Ambassador Book Award for Fiction
 - Finalist, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- for *Breathing Lessons* (1988):
- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1989)
 - *Time's* "Book of the Year"
- for *Ladder of Years* (1995):
- Finalist, The Orange Prize for Fiction 1996
- for *Digging to America* (2006):
- Finalist, The Orange Prize for Fiction 2007
- for *A Spool of Blue Thread* (2015):
- Finalist, The Man Booker Prize 2015
 - Finalist, The Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction 2015
- for *Redhead By the Side of the Road* (2020):
- Longlist, The Man Booker Prize 2020
- for **Lifetime achievement:**
- Finalist, The Man Booker International Prize 2011
 - *The Sunday Times* Award for Literary Excellence 2012

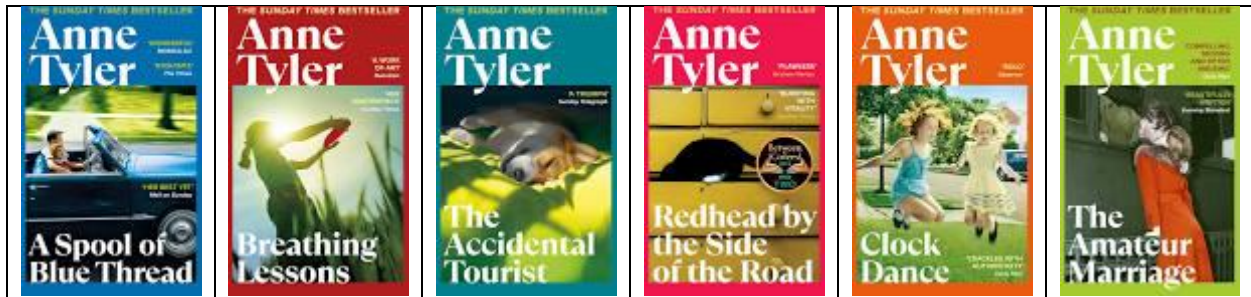
Film Adaptations

Several of Pulitzer Prize-winner Anne Tyler's acclaimed novels have been adapted into films and television movies, focusing on themes of family, loss, and emotional recovery. The most notable adaptation is the Oscar-winning 1988 film *The Accidental Tourist*, alongside several TV movies produced for Hallmark Hall of Fame and other networks.

Key Film Adaptations:

- **The Accidental Tourist (1988):** A feature film starring William Hurt and Geena Davis (who won an Oscar for her role).
- **Breathing Lessons (1994):** TV movie based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.
- **Saint Maybe (1998):** Hallmark Hall of Fame TV movie.
- **A Slipping-Down Life (1999):** Independent film adaptation.
- **Earthly Possessions (1999):** TV movie starring Susan Sarandon.
- **Back When We Were Grownups (2004):** Hallmark Hall of Fame TV movie.

These adaptations are known for bringing Tyler's focus on intimate character studies and emotional narratives to the screen.



Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/457.Anne_Tyler
- 02] <https://annetyler.com/books/>
- 03] <https://www.bookseriesinorder.com/anne-tyler/>
- 04] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/anne-tyler/_/N-2k44
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/anne-tyler/>
- 06] <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/anne-tyler.html>
- 07] <https://annetyler.com/books/>

Videos

01] The Accidental Tourist by Anne Tyler | Audiobook part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjscPbQ6JCQ> [6:22:15]

The Accidental Tourist by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anne Tyler is a tender, witty, and deeply human story about grief, healing, and unexpected love. Meet Macon Leary, a man stuck in routine and emotional paralysis, whose carefully ordered world is upended by the eccentric and free-spirited Muriel. Their connection challenges everything he thought he knew about himself—and what it means to start over.

02] Extended interview: Anne Tyler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8qr2xFu-Ok> [24:46]

In this web exclusive, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of such books as "Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant," "The Accidental Tourist," "Breathing Lessons," and "A Spool of Blue Thread," talks with "Sunday Morning" national correspondent Robert Costa about her latest novel, "Three Days in June," and her writing habits. She also talks about her family's activism; meeting her husband, the late Iranian novelist and psychiatrist Taghi Modarressi; and why marriage is a common thread in her work.

03] Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler | Full Audiobook | Family Saga & Literary Fiction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AAV-D4iIJc> [11:02:15]

A fractured family. A matriarch's memories. A lifetime of misunderstandings served at one long, unfinished dinner. In Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, Anne Tyler crafts a beautifully layered portrait of the Tull family—anchored by the fierce, proud, and complicated Pearl. As each family member tells their story, we uncover the quiet wounds, stubborn silences, and unspoken hopes that define their lives. With wit, wisdom, and poignancy, Tyler reminds us that no family is perfect—and no love is without its scars.



LOUISE ERDRICH

(1943 -2023)

"My grandfather was a persuasive man who made friends with people at every level of influence. In order to fight against our tribe's termination, he went to newspapers and politicians and urged them to advocate for our tribe in Washington. He also supported his family through the Depression as a truck farmer."

Honours & Awards

Louise Erdrich is a highly acclaimed Native American author known for her novels, poetry, and children's books focusing on the Ojibwe experience. Major awards include the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for *The Night Watchman*, the 2012 National Book Award for *The Round House*, and the 2015 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

Top Awards and Honors

- [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#) (2021): Awarded for *The Night Watchman*.
- [National Book Award for Fiction](#) (2012): Awarded for *The Round House*.
- [Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction](#) (2015): Honored for lifetime contribution.
- [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) (1984, 2016): Awarded for *Love Medicine* and *LaRose*.
- [PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction](#) (2014):.
- [American Academy of Poets Prize](#) (1975):.

Fellowships and Other Honors

- [New York Public Library Library Lion](#) (2025):.
- [Berresford Prize](#) (2022): For contributions to the advancement of artists.
- [Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement](#) (2009):.
- [Guggenheim Fellowship](#) (1985):.
- [MacDowell Fellowship](#) (1980):.
- [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) (2000): Native Writers' Circle of the Americas.

Erdrich is also an independent bookstore owner, running Birchbark Books in Minneapolis.

Literary Movements

01] The **Native American Renaissance** is a term originally coined by critic Kenneth Lincoln in the 1983 book *Native American Renaissance* to categorise the significant increase in production of literary works by Native Americans in the United States in the late 1960s and onwards. A. Robert Lee and Alan Velie note that the book's title "quickly gained currency as a term to describe the efflorescence on literary works that followed the publication of N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn* in 1968". Momaday's novel garnered critical acclaim, including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1969.

02] **Postmodern literature** is a form of literature that is characterized by the use of metafiction, unreliable narration, self-reflexivity, and intertextuality, and which often thematizes both historical and political issues. This style of experimental literature emerged strongly in the United States in the 1960s through the writings of authors such as Kurt Vonnegut, Thomas Pynchon, William Gaddis, Philip K. Dick, Kathy Acker, and John Barth. Postmodernists often challenge authorities, which has been seen as a symptom of the fact that this style of literature first emerged in the context of political tendencies in the 1960s. This inspiration is, among other things, seen through how postmodern literature is highly self-reflexive about the political issues it speaks to.

Precursors to postmodern literature include Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quixote (1605–1615), Laurence Sterne's Tristram Shandy (1760–1767), James Hogg's Private Memoires and Confessions of a Justified Sinner (1824), Thomas Carlyle's Sartor Resartus (1833–1834), and Jack Kerouac's On the Road (1957), but postmodern literature was particularly prominent in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 21st century, American literature still features a strong current of postmodern writing, like the postironic Dave Eggers' A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius (2000), and Jennifer Egan's A Visit from the Goon Squad (2011). These works also further develop the postmodern form.

Sometimes the term "postmodernism" is used to discuss many different things ranging from architecture to historical theory to philosophy and film. Because of this fact, several people distinguish between several forms of postmodernism and thus suggest that there are three forms of postmodernism: (1) Postmodernity is understood as a historical period from the mid-1960s to the present, which is different from the (2) theoretical postmodernism, which encompasses the theories developed by thinkers such as Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault and others, and (3) "cultural postmodernism", which includes film, literature, visual arts, etc. that feature postmodern elements. Postmodern literature is, in this sense, part of cultural postmodernism.

"Captivity" Analysis

Louise Erdrich's poem "Captivity" is a complex, first-person reimagining of Mary Rowlandson's 1676 narrative, exploring the psychological shift of a Puritan woman held by Wampanoag people. It explores themes of fear, cultural transformation, and the blurring of boundaries between "savage" and "civilized," suggesting a profound, lasting change in the narrator's identity.

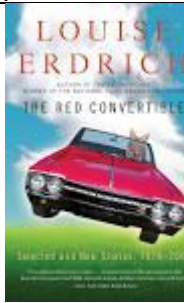
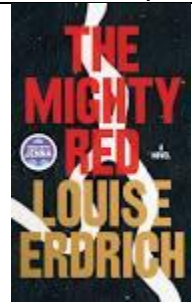
Key aspects of "Captivity" include:

- **Revising History:** Erdrich uses an epigraph from Rowlandson's original text but reinterprets the experience, focusing on the intimate, often disturbing, psychological

change in the speaker rather than just her struggle for survival.

- **Shifting Perspectives on Captors:** The speaker begins by viewing her captors as "pitch devils" but shifts to identifying and humanizing her master. She experiences fear of "understanding his language," signaling a fear of losing her own cultural and spiritual identity.
- **The "Trickster" Captor:** The native captor is portrayed with "trickster" characteristics, disrupting the speaker's rigid, colonial, and Puritan worldview.
- **Cultural Ambivalence:** After her release, the speaker feels alienated from her original life, finding no "truth" in it, and sometimes desires to return to her captors.
- **Imagery of Nature:** The natural world is depicted as a place of both entrapment and release, where the narrator feels isolated upon returning to her Puritan life.

The poem's focus is on the profound transformation and "captivity" of the mind, highlighting how intense experiences can shatter personal and cultural identities.



Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/9388.Louise_Erdrich
- 02] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/louise-erdrich/_/N-2wij
- 03] <https://birchbarkbooks.com/collections/louise-erdrich>
- 04] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/louise-erdrich/>
- 05] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Louise-Erdrich/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ALouise%2BErdrich

Videos

- 01] Author Talk: Louise Erdrich
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZKa2EnZydw> [51:19]
- 02] Talking Volumes: Louise Erdrich on 'The Mighty Red'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RFU6LaRkXk> [1:36:32]
- 03] Louise Erdrich, "The Night Watchman"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYmpqLkjFWQ> [51:26]
- 04] Louise Erdrich discusses THE MIGHTY RED with Lexie Smyth and Jenna Seery
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gMkaH0e5Zw> [45:37]
- 05] Louise Erdrich and Ann Patchett discuss The Sentence
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09Q0vTzeTXg> [59:31]

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LOUISE GLÜCK

(1943 -2023)

"We have a disturbing cultural appetite for novelty, and it seems to me wrong each new laureate should dislodge the ideas of his or her predecessor, especially when they're still unfolding."

Nobel Laureate

Louise Glück

Nobel Prize in Literature 2020

Born: 22 April 1943, New York, NY, USA

Died: 13 October 2023, Cambridge, MA, USA

Residence at the time of the award: Cambridge, MA, USA

Prize motivation

"for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal"

Prize share: 1/1

Awards & Honours

Louise Glück (1943-2023) was one of America's most celebrated poets, winning the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature for her "unmistakable poetic voice". Her major honors include the Pulitzer Prize (1993), National Book Award (2014), National Humanities Medal (2015), Bollingen Prize (2001), and serving as U.S. Poet Laureate (2003-2004).

Major Awards and Honors

- [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) (2020): Awarded for her austere and unmistakable poetic voice.
- [National Humanities Medal](#) (2015): Awarded by President Barack Obama.
- [National Book Award for Poetry](#) (2014): Won for *Faithful and Virtuous Night*.
- [Pulitzer Prize for Poetry](#) (1993): Won for *The Wild Iris*.
- **U.S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry (2003-2004)**: Appointed by the Library of Congress.
- [Bollingen Prize for Poetry](#) (2001): Awarded by Yale University Library.
- **Wallace Stevens Award (2008)**: Awarded by the Academy of American Poets.
- **National Book Critics Circle Award (1985)**: Won for *The Triumph of Achilles*.

- **Los Angeles Times Book Prize (2013):** Won for *Poems 1962–2012*.

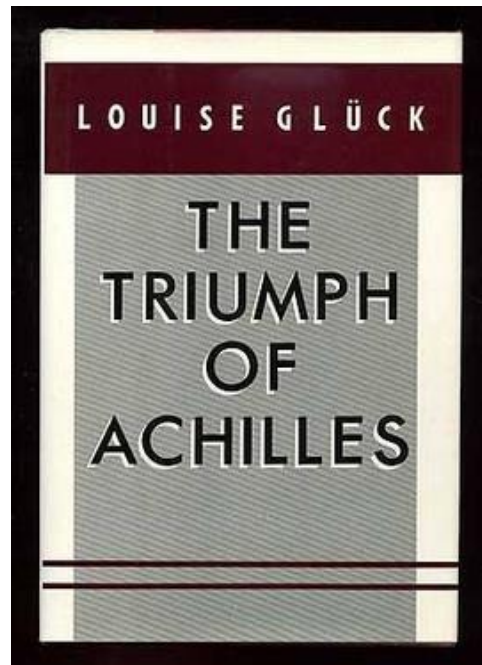
Fellowships and Other Honors

- **Guggenheim Fellowship:** Awarded twice.
- **National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship:** Multiple recipient.
- **American Academy of Arts and Letters:** Member.
- **Tranströmer Prize (2020):**.

Glück's work is characterized by its focus on themes of mythology, childhood, family relationships, and existence, delivered with technical precision.

[The Triumph of Achilles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Triumph_of_Achilles)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Triumph_of_Achilles



The Triumph of Achilles is a collection of poetry by Louise Glück, published in 1985 by Ecco Press. It won the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry. The work concerns themes from classical antiquity and myth. Literary critic Daniel Morris describes it as a "pivotal work" in Glück's oeuvre.^[3]

Writing in The New York Times, the author and critic Liz Rosenberg described the collection as "clearer, purer, and sharper" than Glück's previous work. The critic Peter Stitt, writing in The Georgia Review, declared that the book showed Glück to be "among the important poets of our age". From the collection, the poem "Mock Orange", which has been likened to a feminist anthem, has been called an "anthology piece" for how frequently it has appeared in poetry anthologies and college courses. Wendy Lesser described its "language" as "staunchly straightforward".

Elected or Invited Posts

In 1999, Glück, along with the poets Rita Dove and W. S. Merwin, was asked to serve as a special consultant to the Library of Congress for that institution's bicentennial. In this capacity, she helped the Library of Congress to determine programming to mark its 200th anniversary celebration. In 1999, she was also elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, a post she held until 2005. In 2003, she was appointed the judge of the Yale Series of Younger Poets, a position she held until 2010. The Yale Series is the oldest annual literary competition in the United States, and during her time as judge, she selected for publication works by the poets Jay Hopler, Peter Streckfus, and Fady Joudah, among others.

Glück was a visiting faculty member at many institutions, including Stanford University, Boston University,^[119] the University of North Carolina, Greensboro,^[120] and the Iowa Writers Workshop.

Bibliography

Louise Glück (1943–2023) was a Nobel Prize-winning American poet known for her austere, myth-driven, and autobiographical poetry. Her bibliography includes 12 major poetry collections, spanning from *Firstborn* (1968) to *Winter Recipes from the Collective* (2021), along with two volumes of essays and a 2022 novella.

Key Poetry Collections

- **Winter Recipes from the Collective** (2021)
- **Faithful and Virtuous Night** (2014)
- **Poems 1962–2012** (2012)
- **A Village Life** (2009)
- **Averno** (2006)
- **October** (Chapbook, 2004)
- **The Seven Ages** (2001)
- **Vita Nova** (1999)
- **Meadowlands** (1996)
- **The Wild Iris** (1992)
- **Ararat** (1990)
- **The Triumph of Achilles** (1985)
- **Descending Figure** (1980)
- **The House on Marshland** (1975)
- **Firstborn** (1968)

Essays and Prose

- **Marigold and Rose: A Fiction** (2022)
- **American Originality: Essays on Poetry** (2017)
- **Proofs and Theories: Essays on Poetry** (1994)

Major Awards

- **Nobel Prize in Literature** (2020)
- **National Book Award** for *Faithful and Virtuous Night* (2014)
- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry** for *The Wild Iris* (1993)
- **U.S. Poet Laureate** (2003-2004)

Videos

01] Louise Glück, Academy Class of 2012, Full Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1rpGy8XRzU> [50:07]

02] Louise Glück: Vermont's Nobel Laureate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WnEZ3Xvp0c> [54:10]

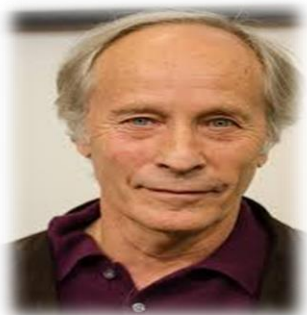
03] Harry's Poetry Hour: Louise Glück

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdoOk7BD1IE> [55:34]

04] Louise Glück, Reading, 11 May 2016

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_Gq-HZTie4 [51:23]

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RICHARD FORD

(1944 ~ ~)

"I decided early on that I wanted to participate in the greater American experience, rather than the parochial one in Mississippi. But I have an urge as a writer to meld the Southern experience into the larger American one."

Compiled by:

Pavithra S <::> Reg No. 25331311003

His Legacy

Richard Ford's legacy is defined as a premier American novelist of contemporary life, best known for his Frank Bascombe series, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning Independence Day. His work, characterized by astute observations of suburban life, consumerism, and the American psyche, has earned him a place among top-tier literary realists.

Key aspects of his legacy include

- **The Frank Bascombe Series:** Beginning with The Sportswriter (1986), Ford created an iconic character that chronicles the nuances of American life, emotional transition, and societal change.
- **Literary Acclaim:** Beyond the 1996 Pulitzer Prize, he received the Princess of Asturias Award (2016) and the Park Kyong-ni Prize (2018), cementing his international standing.
- **Mastery of Tone:** His writing is recognized for its keen focus on the ordinary and his ability to explore American identity, relationships, and the "border between two nothings" in the human experience.
- **Thematic Focus:** His fiction often centers on complex male protagonists navigating divorce, career shifts, and personal loss, particularly in *Independence Day*.
- **Memoirist:** With Between Them: Remembering My Parents, he explored his own upbringing, adding a personal dimension to his examinations of American life.

He is recognized as a significant figure in American literature for his exploration of the complexities of modern existence.

Literary Movements

[A] In visual arts, music, and other media, **Minimalism** is an art movement that emerged in the post-World War II era in Western art. It is often interpreted as a reaction to abstract expressionism and modernism. The movement anticipated various post-minimalist practices in contemporary art that extended or critically reflected on minimalism's original aims. Minimalism emphasized reducing art to its essentials, focusing on the object itself and the viewer's experience with as little mediation from the artist as possible. Prominent artists associated with minimalism include Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Dan Flavin, Carl Andre, Robert Morris, Anne Truitt, and Frank Stella. Minimalism had appeared as a concept with different names in history. It also appeared in religious doctrines as in Buddhism and in the 6th century Islam, where its founder Muhammad practiced and preached to live a simple life. The Caliph Umar, despite being the king of the biggest empire of that time chose to live with bare minimum.

Minimalism in music features methods like repetition and gradual variation, such as the works of La Monte Young, Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Julius Eastman and John Adams. The term is sometimes used to describe the plays and novels of Samuel Beckett, the films of Robert Bresson, the stories of Raymond Carver, and the automobile designs of Colin Chapman. In recent years, minimalism has come to refer to anything or anyone that is sparse or reduced to its essentials.

[B] The term formed the title of the Summer 1984 edition of Granta, for which Buford wrote an explanatory introduction:

Dirty Realism is the fiction of a new generation of American authors. They write about the belly-side of contemporary life – a deserted husband, an unwanted mother, a car thief, a pickpocket, a drug addict – but they write about it with a disturbing detachment, at times verging on comedy. Understated, ironic, sometimes savage, but insistently compassionate, these stories constitute a new voice in fiction.

Literary Fiction

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary_fiction



Literary fiction—also called serious fiction, high literature, artistic literature, or sometimes just literature, encompasses fiction that is more character-driven than plot-driven, examines the human condition, or is considered serious art by critics. These labels are typically used in contrast to genre fiction, which refers to books that fit into established categories of the book trade and place more value on entertainment and appealing to a mass audience. Literary fiction can also be called non-genre fiction and is often considered to have more artistic merit than popular genre fiction.

Some categories of literary fiction, such as historical fiction, magic realism, autobiographical novels, and encyclopedic novels, are frequently called *genres* without being considered genre fiction. Some authors are seen as writing literary equivalents or precursors to established genres while still maintaining the division between commercial and literary fiction. Examples include the literary romance of Jane Austen and the speculative fiction of Margaret Atwood. Some critics and genre authors have argued for even greater overlap between literary and commercial fiction, noting that major literary figures have used elements of popular genres—such as science fiction, crime fiction, and romance—to create works of literature. The slipstream genre is sometimes described as falling between the genre fiction and non-genre fiction.

Awards & Honour

- 1987 [Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award](#) in Fiction for *The Sportswriter*, again in 2007 for *The Lay of the Land*; and in 2013 for *Canada*
- 1995 [Rea Award for the Short Story](#), for outstanding achievement in that genre
- 1996 [PEN/Faulkner Award](#), for *Independence Day*
- 1996 [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#), for *Independence Day*
- 2001 [PEN/Malamud Award](#), for excellence in short fiction
- 2005 [St. Louis Literary Award](#) from the [Saint Louis University](#) Library Associates
- 2008 [Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement](#)
- 2012 Elected [Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature](#)
- 2013 [Prix Femina étranger](#), for *Canada*
- 2013 [Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction](#), for *Canada*
- 2015 [Fitzgerald Award for Achievement in American Literature](#) part of the [F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival](#)
- 2015 [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#), finalist, for *Let Me Be Frank with You*
- 2016 [Princess of Asturias Award](#) in Literature
- 2018 [Park Kyong-ni Prize](#)
- 2018 [Siegfried Lenz Prize](#)
- 2019 [Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction](#)

Richard Ford | **Interview**

<https://granta.com/an-interview-with-richard-ford/>

The first story that Richard Ford wrote for *Granta* appeared in the eighth issue of the magazine, 'Dirty Realism', in 1983. At that time, Ford, who was born in Jackson, Mississippi, was about to turn forty and had published two novels, *A Piece of My Heart*, and *The Ultimate Good Luck*. Neither had sold in any numbers and when Ford's *Granta* story 'Rock Springs' came out neither was in print.

Alongside Ford in that 'Dirty Realism' issue were other writers who seemed, at least for the purposes of selling literary magazines, to share a similar take on the world, in particular Raymond Carver. If magazines could be said to have characters or souls (or even consciences) Ford and Carver did as much to shape those things in *Granta* as anyone.

A couple of years after 'Dirty Realism' appeared, Richard Ford wrote *The Sportswriter*, the novel that made sure that subsequently all of his writing would be in print. *The Sportswriter* introduced the character Frank Bascombe, a failed novelist, who, after his son had died and his marriage ended, had moved from the south of America to take jobs covering baseball and football in New Jersey. His was an indelible fictional voice: troubled, eloquent and stubborn in its hope.

Ford has continued to write stories, and many of the best of them have appeared in these pages. He has edited two anthologies, *The Granta Book of the American Short Story*, and *The Granta Book of the American Long*

Story, which are not only wonderful primers in the art, but also a good guide to the rigour and generosity that inform his writing.

He followed *The Sportswriter* with a short novel, *Wildlife*, and then with another Frank Bascombe novel, *Independence Day*, the only novel to win both the PEN/Faulkner Award and the National Book Award. After two more collections of stories, *Women with Men* and *A Multitude of Sins*, the trilogy of Bascombe novels was completed by *The Lay of the Land* in 2006.

Richard Ford now lives in Maine, with his wife of thirty-nine years, Kristina Ford. This interview took place in July, 2007.

– Tim Adams



Web Links for Books

- 01] https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/richard-ford/_/N-2kjz
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/7849.Richard_Ford
- 03] <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/richard-ford.html>
- 04] <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/richard-ford>
- 05] <https://www.bookseriesinorder.com/richard-ford/>

Videos

- 01] Richard Ford in Conversation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XZsZdseeqw> [1:01:49]
- 02] Richard Ford. Traces of Happiness
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsIvChPOpPE> [1:26:59]
- 03] Spotlight Lecture: Richard Ford discusses his book "Sorry for Your Trouble" with Bill Roorbach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcksjyDnf30> [57:17]
- 04] Richard Ford with Kirsty Wark at the Edinburgh International Book Festival
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THNc6CijAqw> [55:58]
- 05] CLF 2023: AMERICAN ODYSSEY Richard Ford with Regina Marler
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTKTrdwWItQ> [54:12]



DAVID MAMET

(1947 ~ ~)

"A stage play is basically a form of uber-schizophrenia. You split yourself into two minds - one being the protagonist and the other being the antagonist. The playwright also splits himself into two other minds: the mind of the writer and the mind of the audience."

Awards

David Mamet is a highly acclaimed playwright and screenwriter, most notably winning the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Throughout his career, he has earned prestigious accolades including a [Tony Award](#), [Obie Awards](#), [New York Drama Critics Circle Awards](#), and the [WGA Screen Laurel Award](#) for his lasting impact on literature in film and theater.

Watch William H. Macy presents the
2005 Screen Laurel Award to David Mamet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiSzQofH09M&t=1s>

Major Awards and Nominations:

- **Pulitzer Prize:** *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984 - Winner)
- **Tony Awards:** *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984 - Nominee), *Speed-the-Plow* (1988 - Nominee)
- **Academy Awards (Oscars):** *The Verdict* (1983 - Nominee, Best Adapted Screenplay), *Wag the Dog* (1998 - Nominee, Best Adapted Screenplay)
- **Writers Guild of America (WGA):** Screen Laurel Award (2005)
- **Obie Awards:** *Sexual Perversity in Chicago/American Buffalo* (1976), *The Cryptogram* (1995)
- **New York Drama Critics Circle Award:** *American Buffalo* (1977), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984)
- **Golden Globe Awards:** Nominated for *The Verdict*, *House of Games*, and *Wag the Dog*
- **Emmy Awards:** Nominated for *Phil Spector* (2013, Outstanding Writing & Directing)
- **Venice Film Festival:** Golden Osella (Best Screenplay) for *House of Games* (1987)

Mamet is also known for his work in television, winning a 1994 [Wise Owl Award](#) for *A Life in the Theatre*.

Plots / Films

David Mamet is a renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, screenwriter, and director known for sharp, rhythmic dialogue and themes of deception, power, and con games. His notable directed films include House of Games (1987), Homicide (1991), The Spanish Prisoner (1997), and Heist (2001), while key screenwriting credits feature The Verdict (1982) and The Untouchables (1987).

Key Films Directed and Written by Mamet

- ***House of Games* (1987):** A psychologist is drawn into a world of con men.
- ***Things Change* (1988):** A shoe-shiner is hired to take the rap for a mafia murder.
- ***Homicide* (1991):** A Jewish detective faces an existential crisis during a murder investigation.
- ***Oleanna* (1994):** A tense adaptation of his play about sexual misconduct allegations.
- ***The Spanish Prisoner* (1997):** A corporate thriller focused on a complex con.
- ***The Winslow Boy* (1999):** A period drama based on the Terence Rattigan play.
- ***State and Main* (2000):** A satire about a film crew invading a small town.
- ***Heist* (2001):** A commercial hit crime film about professional thieves.
- ***Spartan* (2004):** A political action-thriller.
- ***Redbelt* (2008):** A drama centered on a Jiu-Jitsu instructor.
- ***Phil Spector* (2013):** A TV movie dramatizing the music producer's trial.

Key Screenwriting Credits (Not Directed by Mamet)

- ***The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981):** Neo-noir directed by Bob Rafelson.
- ***The Verdict* (1982):** Legal drama starring Paul Newman.
- ***The Untouchables* (1987):** Brian De Palma's crime classic.
- ***We're No Angels* (1989):** Comedy starring Robert De Niro and Sean Penn.
- ***Glengarry Glen Ross* (1992):** Acclaimed adaptation of his own Pulitzer-winning play.
- ***Hoffa* (1992):** Biographical drama starring Jack Nicholson.
- ***Wag the Dog* (1997):** Political satire.

- ***The Edge* (1997):** Wilderness survival thriller.
- ***Ronin* (1998):** Action-thriller (credited as Richard Weisz).
- ***Hannibal* (2001):** Ridley Scott's thriller sequel.

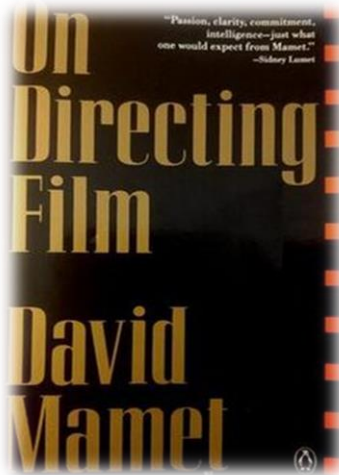
Other Notable Works

- **Television:** Created the series [*The Unit*](#) (2006–2009).
- **Upcoming:** *Henry Johnson* (2025).

Mamet's directing style often emphasizes "on directing film" principles, favoring visual storytelling over excessive dialogue, as detailed in his book *On Directing Film*.

On Directing Film

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_Directing_Film



On Directing Film is a 1991 [non-fiction book](#) by American playwright and filmmaker [David Mamet](#).

The book is made up of six chapters, of which the second and fifth take the form of dialogue between Mamet and unnamed students, reflecting that the book was based on classes in film directing held by Mamet at [Columbia University](#)'s film school. Mamet takes a strong oppositional view to mainstream American filmmaking, [method acting](#), and general indulgence in art. He cites as his major influence [Sergei Eisenstein](#) and his [montage theory](#), and makes numerous references to the work of Russian theatre director and theorist [Stanislavsky](#).

<https://www.scribd.com/document/849054435/On-Directing-Film-PDF>

Videos

- 01] David Mamet Has Left the Building | Talk Easy with Sam Fragoso
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be62DXxpgq0> [1:19:19]
- 02] David Mamet Pulls No Punches When It Comes to Hollywood & Politics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pvoE3FQQWs> [1:14:50]
- 03] Why David Mamet Hates Salinger, Steinbeck—and School
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4_sKMjNzL8 [1:01:18]
- 04] David Mamet | Club Random with Bill Maher
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lghoDHPt-I [2:08:46]
- 05] Mohr Stories 514: David Mamet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arxnARhabmk> [59:40]
- 06] David Mamet on Great Writing, Bad Acting, His New Film & Hollywood's Collapse
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LqGWV4KZI8> [1:15:39]



YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA

(1941 ~ ~)

"It took me 14 years to write poems about Vietnam. I had never thought about writing about it, and in a way, I had been systematically writing around it."

Awards & Honours

Yusef Komunyakaa is a celebrated American poet renowned for his jazz-influenced, war-focused poetry. His major honors include the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems 1977-1989, the 2011 Wallace Stevens Award, the 2021 Zbigniew Herbert International Literary Award, and the 2007 Louisiana Writer Award.

Major Awards & Honours

- Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1994): *Neon Vernacular*.
- Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award (1994): *Neon Vernacular*.
- Wallace Stevens Award (2011): Awarded by the Academy of American Poets for outstanding mastery in poetry.
- Zbigniew Herbert International Literary Award (2021):.
- Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize: Awarded for distinguished poetic achievement.
- Griffin Poetry Prize Lifetime Recognition Award (2021):.
- Shelley Memorial Award (2004): Given by the Poetry Society of America.
- William Faulkner Prize: Université de Rennes.
- San Francisco Poetry Center Award (1986): *I Apologize for the Eyes in My Head*.
- Louisiana Writer Award (2007):.

Fellowships and Artistic Recognition

- **Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets**: Served 1999–2005.
- **Member**, American Academy of Arts and Letters / Arts and Sciences:.
- **Fellowships**: National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Louisiana Arts Council.

- **Finalist:** National Book Critics Circle Award (*Thieves of Paradise, The Chameleon Couch*) and National Book Award (*The Chameleon Couch*).

Key Collections Recognized

- *Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems 1977–1989*
- *Dien Cai Dau*
- *Thieves of Paradise*
- *The Chameleon Couch*
- *Warhorses*

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://poets.org/poet/yusef-komunyakaa>
- 02] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/yusef-komunyakaa>
- 03] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/yusef-komunyakaa/>
- 04] https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poets/poet/102-18659_Komunyakaa
- 05] <https://poetrysociety.org/poems-essays/ars-poetica/yusef-komunyakaa>

Facing It

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facing_It



"Facing It" is a poem by American poet and author **Yusef Komunyakaa**. It is a reflection on Komunyakaa's first visit to the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. Komunyakaa served in Vietnam and was discharged from the Army in 1966, during which time he wrote for army newspaper *Southern Cross*. It is the second poem written by Komunyakaa about Vietnam. **R. S. Gwynn** has referred to the poem as "the most poignant elegy that has been written about the Vietnam War."

Background

The poem was his second to deal with the topic of the **Vietnam War**. He first wrote a poem dealing with Vietnam fourteen years after returning from the war. "Facing It" was written approximately a year after visiting the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial. Komunyakaa has said "Facing It" influenced the other poems of the collection in which it was first published, *Dien Cai Dau*.

Content

The poem concerns the speaker's visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a black [gabbro](#) wall engraved with the names of American soldiers who died in the war. The wall is polished so that it is reflective.

Composition

Like jazz, the poem appears to be free of form, but it is in fact split into a verse-bridge-verse structure similar to many jazz songs.^[4] The first thirteen lines reflect on the speaker's reaction, and the final thirteen reflect on the reactions of others; these two sections are separated by a shorter section describing the act of finding and touching a name.^[4]

Context

The poem is one of several by Vietnam veterans to deal with memorials. Andrew Palmer and Sally Minogue have contrasted the "ambivalent response" of "Facing It" with [W. D. Ehrhart's](#) "The Invasion of Grenada", in which the speaker rejects the idea of a Vietnam memorial and refuses to engage with "...that vast black wall of broken lives".

The poem has been anthologized in a number of collections, and is perhaps Komunyakaa's best known work.

Videos

01] Lunch Poems - Yusef Komunyakaa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAxTdH-YPYQ> [30:23]

02] Yusef Komunyakaa: An Evening of Poetry and Reflections

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHY3x3sZz0Q> [57:06]

First alerted to the power of language through his grandparents, who were church people, and for whom the "sound of the Old Testament informed the cadences of their speech," award winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa's poetry weaves together personal narrative, jazz rhythms, and vernacular language to create complex images of life in peace and in war, in places near and far, and of experiences old and new.

03] Yusef Komunyakaa | Everyday Mojo Songs of Earth: New and Selected Poems, 2001-2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5ZJa7KKBDg> [43:45]

04] Helen Edison Lecture: Yusef Komunyakaa

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_6fjPitzUc [58:48]

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LESLIE MARMON SILKO

(1948 ~ ~)

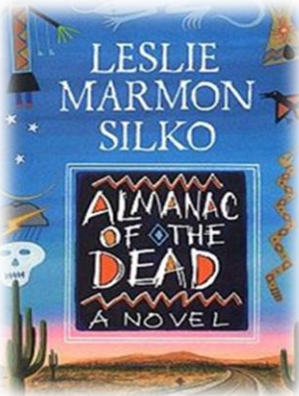
"To be able to make up stories has been a great gift to me from my ancestors and from the storytellers who were so numerous at Laguna Pueblo when I was growing up. I learned to read as soon as I could because I wanted stories without having to depend on adults to tell or read stories to me."

Native American Renaissance

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Renaissance

The **Native American Renaissance** is a term originally coined by critic Kenneth Lincoln in the 1983 book *Native American Renaissance* to categorise the significant increase in production of literary works by Native Americans in the United States in the late 1960s and onwards. A. Robert Lee and Alan Velie note that the book's title "quickly gained currency as a term to describe the efflorescence on literary works that followed the publication of N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn* in 1968". Momaday's novel garnered critical acclaim, including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1969.

Prior to the publication of *House Made of Dawn*, few Native American authors had published works of fiction that reached wide readership. Writers such as William Apess, John Rollin Ridge and Simon Pokagon published works to little fanfare in the nineteenth century. Prior to the onset of World War II, Mourning Dove, John Milton Oskison, John Joseph Mathews, Zitkala-Sa, Charles Eastman and D'Arcy McNickle published literary works, although these works were relatively few in number.



Almanac of the Dead

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almanac_of_the_Dead

Almanac of the Dead takes place in the American Southwest and Central America, focusing on the conflict between Anglo-Americans and Native Americans. It follows the stories of dozens of major characters in a non-linear narrative format, switching between the present day, flashbacks, and occasional mythological storytelling.

The novel's numerous characters are often separated by both time and space, and many seemingly have little to do with one another at first. A majority of these characters are involved in criminal or revolutionary organizations; including the Zapatista Army of National Liberation revolutionaries, arms dealers, drug kingpins, an elite assassin, corrupt politicians, and a black market organ dealer.

Driving many of these individual storylines is a general theme of total reclamation of [Native American](#) lands, as well as a celebration of the value of storytelling.

Critiquing the limitations of the [American Indian Movement](#), the novel presents readers with the model of "tribal internationalists," individuals who work with international alliances to reclaim their Indigenous land. Several literary critics have been critical of the novel's depiction of [homosexuality](#), as the novel features male gay and [bisexual](#) characters who are variously abusive, sadistic, and cruel.

Her Legacy

Leslie Marmon Silko (b. 1948) is a seminal figure in the Native American Renaissance, renowned for weaving Laguna Pueblo oral traditions with contemporary fiction to explore alienation, cultural resilience, and the land's spiritual significance. Her landmark novel, [Ceremony](#) (1977), established her as a premier voice in Native literature, focusing on indigenous healing.

Key Aspects of Her Legacy:

- **Literary Pioneering:** As one of the first widely acclaimed Native American women writers, Silko shifted the literary landscape by elevating Indigenous voices.
- **Major Works:** Her legacy is defined by *Ceremony*, the mixed-genre [Storyteller](#) (1981), and the expansive [Almanac of the Dead](#) (1991), which tackle colonialism, resistance, and the reclamation of indigenous history.
- **Cultural Preservation & Storytelling:** She emphasizes the role of storytelling as a "whole way of life," merging traditional Pueblo mythology with the modern experience, often highlighting the "Yellow Woman" figure.
- **Awards & Recognition:** She is a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" grant (1981) and the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Focus on Land and Identity:** Her work consistently links personal and cultural identity to the physical landscape of the Southwest.

Silko's influence extends through her fiction, poetry, and essays, which continue to teach the necessity of honoring Native traditions to combat the fractures of modern society.

Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/literature-and-writing/leslie-marmon-silko>
- 02] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/leslie-marmon-silko>
- 03] <https://poets.org/poet/leslie-marmon-silko>
- 04] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29581.Leslie_Marmon_Silko
- 05] <https://www.learner.org/series/american-passages-a-literary-survey/native-voices-video/leslie-marmon-silko-b-1948/>



Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.amazon.in/Society-Social-Sciences-Leslie-Marmon-Silko/s?rh=n%3A1318216031%2Cp_27%3ALeslie%2BMarmon%2BSilko
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/29581.Leslie_Marmon_Silko
- 03] <https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/leslie-marmon-silko/196832/?srsltid=AfmBOor6NR7OTYq6P65AV95mW6vVUyPOWXnzn-Fp-B7jWmY4ahM3yBE8>
- 04] <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/13578/leslie-marmon-silko>
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/leslie-marmon-silko/>
- 06] <https://lunabooks.in/collections/vendors?q=Leslie+Marmon+Silko>
- 07]

VIDEOS

- 01] Native American Literature: A Panel Paying Homage to Leslie Marmon Silko, 2020 Robert Kirsch Award W

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7DFBkX3y_Y [1:13:15]

Acclaimed novelist, poet, and essayist Leslie Marmon Silko is known for her lyric treatment of Native American subjects. In recognition of her lifetime achievement in writing and the 2020 Robert Kirsch Award honor, we have assembled the next generation of writers to discuss their works and 21st Century Native literature.

- 02] Director's Choice: Leslie Marmon Silko

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VriQNbMPDcY> [55:45]

Director's Choice presents historic readings from the University of Arizona Poetry Center's extensive audiovisual archive Voca, as selected by past and present leadership of the Center, including Gail Browne, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Tyler Meier, and Frances Sjöberg. This reading from Leslie Marmon Silko was originally given on Nov. 17th, 1974. Silko reads extensively from her second collection *Storyteller*, mixing poetry and prose. Silko would go on to become an inaugural winner of the MacArthur Awards and celebrated as one of the most important voices of her generation.

- 03] An Evening with Leslie Marmon Silko

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3OhZXki6Xo> [51:44]

- 04] Passages: Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN2t_lfcWRQ [1:02:45]

- 05] Close Talking: A Poetry Podcast - Ep. 091 Excerpt from Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6xdxOfqZGI> [47:20]



JAMAICA KINCAID

(1949 ~ ~)

"I come from a little island with the Caribbean Sea on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. I come from, really, nowhere, and for me, the fiction and the nonfiction, creative or otherwise, all come from the same place."

Awards & Honors

Jamaica Kincaid is a highly acclaimed author recognized for her significant contributions to literature, winning numerous awards, including the 2022 Hadada Prize, the 2017 Dan David Prize, and the 2024 St. Louis Literary Award. She is renowned for her works focusing on Antigua, colonialism, and family, including *Annie John* and *See Now Then*.

Major Awards and Honors

- St. Louis Literary Award (2024): Honored for her lasting impact on literature.
- **The Paris Review Hadada Prize (2022):** Awarded for a distinguished lifetime of achievement.
- Dan David Prize in Literature (2017): Recognized for her contribution to literature.
- Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award (2014): Won for *See Now Then*.
- Clifton Fadiman Medal (2010): Awarded by the Center for Fiction for *Annie John*.
- Prix Femina étranger (2000): Won for *My Brother*.
- Lannan Literary Award for Fiction (1999): Honored for her fiction writing.
- Anisfield-Wolf Book Award (1997): Awarded for *The Autobiography of My Mother*.
- Morton Dauwen Zabel Award (1984): Received for fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
- Guggenheim Fellowship (1985): Awarded for fiction.

Memberships and Recognitions

- **Elected Member** of the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2004).
- **Elected Member** of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2009).

- **Honorary Doctorates** from several universities.
- **Frequent Contender** for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

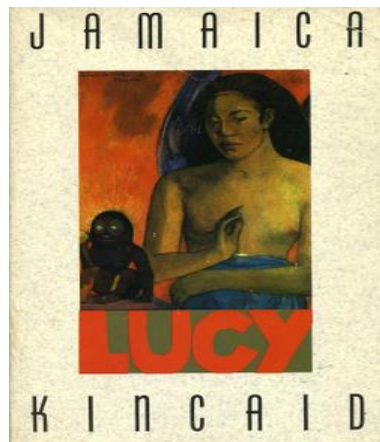
Kincaid's work is celebrated for its precise language and exploration of complex personal and political themes, making her a vital voice in modern literature.

INTERVIEWS

- [Selwyn Cudjoe](#), "Jamaica Kincaid and the Modernist Project: An Interview," *Callaloo*, 12 (Spring 1989): 396-411; reprinted in *Caribbean Women Writers: Essays from the First International Conference*, ed. Cudjoe (Wellesley, Mass.: Calaloux, 1990): 215-231.
- Leslie Garis, "Through West Indian Eyes," *New York Times Magazine* (October 7, 1990): 42.
- Donna Perry, "An Interview with Jamaica Kincaid," in *Reading Black, Reading Feminist: A Critical Anthology*, edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. (New York: Meridian, 1990): 492-510.
- Kay Bonetti, "An Interview with Jamaica Kincaid," *Missouri Review*, 15, No. 2 (1992): 124-142.
- Allan Vorda, "I Come from a Place That's Very Unreal: An Interview with Jamaica Kincaid," in *Face to Face: Interviews with Contemporary Novelists*, ed. Vorda (Houston: Rice University Press, 1993): 77-105.
- Moira Ferguson, "A Lot of Memory: An Interview with Jamaica Kincaid," *Kenyon Review*, 16 (Winter 1994): 163-188.

Lucy (novel)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy_(novel))



Lucy (1990) is a novella by [Jamaica Kincaid](#). The story begins *in medias res*: the *eponymous* Lucy has come from the [West Indies](#) to the United States to be an *au pair* for a wealthy white family. The plot of the novel closely mirrors Kincaid's own experiences.

Lucy retains the critical tone of [A Small Place](#) but simplifies the style of Kincaid's earlier work by using less repetition and surrealism. The first of her books set completely outside the Caribbean, *Lucy*, like most of Kincaid's writing, has a strong autobiographical basis. The novel's protagonist, Lucy Josephine Potter, shares one of Kincaid's given names and her birthday. Like Kincaid, Lucy leaves the Caribbean to become an *au pair* in a large American city. At nineteen, Lucy is older than previous Kincaid protagonists, which lends the book a more mature and cynical perspective than in her previous fiction. Still, Lucy has pangs of homesickness and unresolved feelings about her mother, and she has never lived on her own or seen much of the world. With plenty of room for growth and Lucy becoming a photographer, the story takes the form of a *künstlerroman*, a novel in which an artist matures.



Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/39237.Jamaica_Kincaid
- 02] <https://lithub.com/where-to-start-with-the-writing-of-jamaica-kincaid/>
- 03] <https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/guide-to-jamaica-kincaids-books-in-order>
- 04] <https://us.macmillan.com/author/jamaicakincaid>
- 05] <https://www.addall.com/books-in-order/jamaica-kincaid/>
- 06] <https://www.nyrb.com/collections/jamaica-kincaid>
- 07] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Jamaica-Kincaid/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AJamaica%2BKincaid

Videos

01] Jamaica Kincaid in Conversation with Stephen Best

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfVEOX-L8p4> [1:26:43]

One of the most celebrated writers of her generation, Jamaica Kincaid offers a clear, illuminating vision of humanity. Written in a deceptively simple and unadorned style, Kincaid's books are informed by her status as an uprooted subject, born on the Caribbean island of Antigua but living in North America. Kincaid deals with such core human themes as coming-of-age, the necessity of separation from parents, and the forging of personal identity.

02] Jamaica Kincaid: The Art of Fiction (English)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7szuwRMZF8A> [1:13:42]

As a seventeen-year-old au pair, Jamaica Kincaid came to the United States from Antigua, which was a British colony until 1981. Her first story, "Girl," made her famous in an instant. It consisted of only one sentence and appeared in the New Yorker, for which she later worked herself. Images and moods of her childhood on the Caribbean island shaped her work. Kincaid talks with author Gabriele von Arnim about the influences and principles of her writing. She tells why critics accused her of writing too personally and angrily, and why she is now considered a pioneer of garden literature.

03] Episode 64: Featured Event with Ian Frazier and Jamaica Kincaid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d81a12Lai9w> [59:59]

04] Jamaica Kincaid: The Hidden History of Gardens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUvMvljOP28> [58:32]

Novelist Jamaica Kincaid is renowned as a prolific writer on family relationships and her native Antigua. She is also an avid gardener and in her recent work, *An Encyclopedia of Gardening for Colored Children*, she honors plant life with honesty as well as wit, offering an important look at how legacies of empire and slavery shape where and why we grow certain crops. Join Kincaid as she connects with Chicago Humanities to expand on the ABCs of plants that define our world and the truths of colonial history that manifest in our gardens.





JORIE GRAHAM

(1950 ~ ~)

"I think I am probably in love with silence, that another world. And that I write, in some way, to negotiate seriously with it. Because there is, of course, always the desire, the hope, that they are not two separate worlds, sound and silence, but that they become each other, that only our hearing fails."

Awards & Honours

Jorie Graham is a highly acclaimed, award-winning American poet, most notably winning the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *The Dream of the Unified Field: Selected Poems 1974-1994*. She has received the prestigious Wallace Stevens Award (2017), a MacArthur Fellowship, the Forward Prize (2012), and the 2018 Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry.

Major Awards and Honors

- [Pulitzer Prize for Poetry \(1996\)](#): Awarded for *The Dream of the Unified Field: Selected Poems 1974-1992*.
- [Wallace Stevens Award \(2017\)](#): Given by the Academy of American Poets for outstanding mastery in poetry.
- [Forward Prize for Best Collection \(2012\)](#): Awarded for *Place* (she was the first American woman to win this).
- [Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry \(2018\)](#): Awarded for her collection *Fast*.
- [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship \(1990\)](#): Commonly known as the "genius grant".
- [International Nonino Prize \(2013\)](#): Recognized for her work.
- [Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Poetry \(2016\)](#): For *From the New World: Selected Poems 1976-2014*.
- [Laurel Prize \(2023\)](#): For her poetry.
- [Morton Dauwen Zabel Award](#): From the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.
- [Academy of American Poets Chancellor](#): Served from 1997 to 2003.

Other Notable Appointments

- [Boylston Professor of Oratory and Rhetoric at Harvard University](#): She is the first woman to hold this position.

Graham's work is characterized by its exploration of complex philosophical, environmental, and personal themes, solidifying her reputation as one of the most important poets of her generation.

SOME USEFUL WEB LINKS

- 01] <https://quotefancy.com/jorie-graham-quotes>
- 02] <https://poets.org/poet/jorie-graham>
- 03] <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/jorie-graham>
- 04] <https://www.lrb.co.uk/contributors/jorie-graham>
- 05] <https://english.fas.harvard.edu/people/jorie-graham>

Harvard University

Department of English

<https://english.fas.harvard.edu/people/jorie-graham>

Jorie Graham

Boylston Professor of Oratory and Rhetoric Emerita

Education: B.A., New York University (1973)

M.F.A., University of Iowa (1978)

Interests:

English Poetry; American Poetry; Contemporary Poetics; Film Theory; Painting.

Selected Works:

All poetry: *Fast* (2017); *Place* (Ecco 2012); *Sea Change* (Ecco 2008); *Overlord* (2005); *Never* (2002); *Speaking Subject* (2002); *Swarm* (2000); *The Errancy* (1997); *The Dream of The Unified Field* (1996); *Materialism* (1993); *Region of Unlikeness* (1991); *The End of Beauty* (1987); *Erosion* (1983); *Hybrids of Plants and of Ghosts* (1980).



Web Links to Books

- 01] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Jorie-Graham/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AJorie%2BGraham
- 02] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/46600.Jorie_Graham
- 03] <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/jorie-graham.html>
- 04] https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL25724A/Jorie_Graham
- 05] <https://www.lrb.co.uk/contributors/jorie-graham>
- 06] <https://us.macmillan.com/author/joriegraham>

Poetry Competition Controversy

In January 1999, she judged the [University of Georgia](#) Contemporary Poetry series contest, which selected the manuscript "O Wheel" from [Peter M. Sacks](#), her future husband, as the first-place winner. Graham noted that at that time she was not married to Sacks, and that while she had "felt awkward" about giving the award to her then-boyfriend, she had first cleared it with the series editor, [Bin Ramke](#). As a result of the critical media coverage Ramke resigned from the editorship of the series. Graham subsequently announced that she would no longer serve as a judge in contests although she continued to do so after 2008.^[14] Throughout the course of the contest, Ramke had insisted that judges of the contest be kept secret, and until [Foetry.com](#) obtained the names of judges via The Open Records Act, the conflict of interest had been undisclosed. A statement now adopted in the rules of many competitions (including the University of Georgia Contest) to prevent judges from selecting students is often referred to as the "Jorie Graham rule".

The Foetry site also contended that Graham, as a judge at Georgia and other contests, had awarded prizes to at least five of her former students from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, including [Joshua Clover](#), [Mark Levine](#), and [Geoffrey Nutter](#). Graham's reply to this was that over years of teaching she has had over 1400 students, many of whom went on to continue writing poetry, that no rules had prohibited her from awarding prizes to former students, and that in each case she claims to have selected the strongest work.

VIDEOS

01] READING BY JORIE GRAHAM AT THE BLACKSMITH HOUSE | Woodberry Poetry Room

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_xpjiOdASo [1:01:57]

At this reading, hosted by the Blacksmith House Reading Series and introduced by Andrea Cohen, Jorie Graham reads from her collection, *Place*, and provides substantive introductions to each poem. The recording was produced by the Woodberry Poetry Room, Harvard University.

02] To 2040 by Jorie Graham: Online Book Launch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tG_gyScqv9s [1:02:24]

03] Jorie Graham: Selected Poems | 92Y Readings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzJmj94zsM> [45:32]

04] Poet Jorie Graham reads, January 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC5sYa2bMQY> [51:29]

05] Jorie Graham interviewed by Griffin Trustee Sarah Howe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aPn2WX8Fuo> [22:13]

"I have, in *To 2040*, taken that title and spoken to the future people who live in that year . . . seven generations down the line, who look back and say, 'Why didn't you stop? Why didn't you avert? Why didn't you change? How could you have done this?'" —Jorie Graham

Watch this illuminating conversation between Griffin Trustee Sarah Howe and Jorie Graham, who delves deep into the creation of her 2024 Griffin Poetry Prize-shortlisted collection, *To 2040* (Copper Canyon Press).

(☺)(☺) aaaaaa (☺)(☺)



AMY TAN

(1952 ~ ~)

"Our uniqueness makes us special, makes perception valuable - but it can also make us lonely. This loneliness is different from being 'alone': You can be lonely even surrounded by people. The feeling I'm talking about stems from the sense that we can never fully share the truth of who we are. I experienced this acutely at an early age."

Compiled by:

Sri B <::> Reg No. 253313111001

Awards & Honours

Amy Tan is a highly acclaimed American author best known for her debut novel, *The Joy Luck Club* (1989), which won several awards and was a finalist for major literary honors. She has received recognition for her contributions to literature and for her efforts in supporting literacy.

Major Awards and Recognitions

- **National Humanities Medal (2021):** Awarded for contributions to the American literary canon.
- **Literary Honors:** Carl Sandburg Literary Award (2021), Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service (2005), and elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2022).
- **Cultural Recognitions:** Named a New York Public Library Lion (2024) and received the Golden Plate Award (1996).

Literary & Media Accolades

- ***The Joy Luck Club*:** Finalist for the National Book Award (1989), National Book Critics Circle Award (1989), and Los Angeles Times Fiction Prize.
- **Adaptations & Other Work:** WGA and BAFTA nominations for the film adaptation of *The Joy Luck Club*, and an Emmy nomination for *Sagwa*, *The Chinese Siamese Cat*.
- **Awards:** *Saving Fish From Drowning* earned an Honorable Mention for the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.

MOVIES / FILMS

Amy Tan is best known for the 1993 film adaptation of her debut novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, which she co-wrote. She is also the subject of the 2021 documentary *Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir*, which explores her life, family

history, and creative process. Other appearances include documentaries like *Hollywood Chinese*.

Key Amy Tan Films

- **The Joy Luck Club (1993):** A critically acclaimed drama directed by Wayne Wang based on her bestselling book exploring the relationships between Chinese-American immigrant mothers and their American-born daughters.
- **Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir (2021):** A documentary directed by James Redford for PBS *American Masters*, featuring intimate details of her life, career, and personal struggles.

Other Appearances & Adaptations

- [Sagwa, the Chinese Siamese Cat \(2001-2004\)](#): Animated television series based on her children's book.
- [Hollywood Chinese \(2007\)](#): Documentary featuring Tan discussing the portrayal of Chinese in film.
- [The Boomer List \(2014\)](#): Documentary in which she appears.
- [The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin \(2017\)](#): Documentary featuring Tan.

amytan.net

<https://amytan.net/>

- ❖ <https://amytan.net/backyard-bird-chronicles>
- ❖ <https://amytan.net/events-1>
- ❖ <https://amytan.net/bio-1>
- ❖ <https://amytan.net/news>
- ❖ <https://amytan.net/books>
- ❖ <https://amytan.net/lyme-disease>

[Some Useful Web Links](#)

- 01] <https://www.neh.gov/award/amy-tan>
- 02] <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/literature-and-writing/amy-tan>
- 03] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Amy-Tan>
- 04] <https://www.bananawriters.com/amytan>
- 05] <https://californiamuseum.org/inductee/amy-tan/>

Her Legacies

Amy Tan's legacy is defined by her profound impact on American literature, particularly in bringing the Chinese American immigrant experience and complex mother-daughter relationships to the forefront of mainstream fiction. As a trailblazing author, she transformed personal and ancestral history into widely celebrated stories that resonate with themes of memory, identity, and cultural bridging.

Here are the key legacies of Amy Tan:

1. Literary Significance and Representation

- **"The Joy Luck Club" (1989):** Her debut novel was a critical and commercial phenomenon, spending 40 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list. It established her as a major voice in American literature.
- **Cultural Bridge:** Tan's work, including *The Kitchen God's Wife* and *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, bridged cultural gaps by illuminating the emotional landscapes of Chinese women and their American-born daughters.
- **Global Impact:** Her books have been translated into 35 languages.
- **Adaptations:** Her storytelling expanded beyond novels to film, television, and even opera, widening the reach of her narratives.

2. Exploration of Memory and Trauma

- **Autobiographical Fiction:** Tan frequently mines her own family's history of trauma—including her grandmother's life as a concubine and her mother's suicidal past—to inform her fictional characters.
- **Writing as Self-Discovery:** In her memoir *Where the Past Begins*, she highlights the legacy of intergenerational trauma and the process of healing through storytelling.

3. Artistic and Personal Archives

- **UC Berkeley Archive:** In February 2025, the University of California, Berkeley, announced it acquired a massive archive of her work, preserving her creative process, personal papers, and notes for future researchers and posterity.

4. Philanthropy and Advocacy

- **LymeAid 4 Kids:** After battling chronic Lyme disease herself, she co-founded LymeAid 4 Kids, a foundation that assists uninsured children in paying for treatment.
- **Support for the Arts:** She serves on the boards of the American Bird Conservancy, The National Poetry Series, and The Community of Writers.

5. Redefining Identity and Fortitude

- **"Unintended Memoir":** The 2021 PBS documentary highlighted her journey not just as a writer, but as a person overcoming personal tragedy, including the loss of her father and brother to brain tumors at a young age.
- **Voice of Resilience:** Her work is often studied for its focus on the "legacy of fortitude" within her women characters.

Tan continues to contribute to the literary world through mentoring, teaching (including a MasterClass on fiction and memory), and, in recent years, nature journaling and birding.

Videos

01] Amy Tan: 'The Backyard Bird Chronicles'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQPWApjW1Wc> [1:14:21]

NEW YORK, April 30, 2024 — "The Joy Luck Club" author Amy Tan talks about her latest book, "The Backyard Bird Chronicles," which documents her exploration into birdwatching and the natural wonders of the world. Orville Schell, Arthur Ross director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at the Asia Society, moderates the conversation. (1 hr., 19 min.)

02] Amy Tan | The Backyard Bird Chronicles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga7wBSm7ohg> [49:53]

03] Amy Tan — The Backyard Bird Chronicles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiHSKWEnzuk> [1:03:43]

Tracking the natural beauty that surrounds us, The Backyard Bird Chronicles maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original sketches. With boundless charm and wit, author Amy Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world. In 2016, Amy Tan grew overwhelmed by the state of the world: Hatred and misinformation became a daily presence on social media, and the country felt more divisive than ever. In search of peace, Tan turned toward the natural world just beyond her window and, specifically, the birds visiting her yard. But what began as an attempt to find solace turned into something far greater—an opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature in a meaningful way, and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admired.

04] The Backyard Bird Chronicles: A Fireside Chat with Amy Tan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9jT5D1x-5I> [59:39]

For the last lecture for our 2023-2024 Winter Lecture Series, esteemed author, Amy Tan, joined NYC Audubon for a fireside chat! You may know her as the author of The Joy Luck Club, The Kitchen God's Wife, The Chinese Siamese Cat, and more, but did you know that she is also an avid birder and artist? On Tuesday, March 5, Amy and NYC Audubon Board member, Kyu Lee, sat down to discuss Amy's latest book, The Backyard Bird Chronicles, set to release on April 23, 2024, as well as her love of birds, from spotting them in her yard to illustrating them, and nature journaling.



RITA DOVE

(1952 ~ ~)

"I was appointed Poet Laureate. It came totally out of the blue because most Poet Laureates had been considerably older than I. It was not something that I even had begun to dream about!"

Awards & Honour

Rita Dove is a highly decorated American poet and author, best known as the 1987 Pulitzer Prize winner for *Thomas and Beulah* and for serving as the youngest U.S. Poet Laureate (1993-1995). She is the only poet to receive both the National Humanities Medal (1996) and the National Medal of Arts (2011), along with over 29 honorary doctorates.

Major Awards and Honors

- **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1987)**: For *Thomas and Beulah*.
- **U.S. Poet Laureate (1993–1995)**: Youngest person and first African American (following Gwendolyn Brooks) to hold the post.
- **National Humanities Medal (1996)**: Presented by President Bill Clinton.
- **National Medal of Arts (2011)**: Presented by President Barack Obama.
- **Wallace Stevens Award (2019)**: From the Academy of American Poets.
- **Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize (2022)**: From The Poetry Foundation.
- **Gold Medal for Poetry (2021)**: From the American Academy of Arts and Letters (third female recipient).
- **NAACP Image Award (2017)**: For Outstanding Literary Work (Poetry) for *Collected Poems 1974–2004*.
- **Library of Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award (2008)**:.
- **Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal (2009)**:.
- **Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities (1996)**:.

Key Academic & Professional Honors

- **Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets** (2006–2012).
- **Poetry Editor** of *The New York Times Magazine* (2018–2019).
- **Commonwealth Award of Distinguished Service** in Literature (2006).
- **Chubb Fellowship**, Yale University (2007).

LIBRARY

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/poet-laureate/poets-laureate/item/n80111701/rita-dove/>

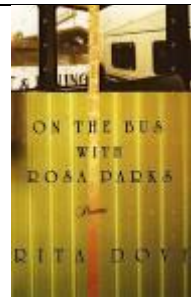
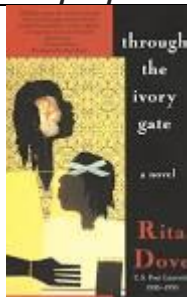
Rita Dove

U.S. Poet Laureate, 1993-1995

Special Bicentennial Consultant, 1999-2000



Rita Dove was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1952. She is the author of 11 collections of poetry, including "Thomas and Beulah" (1986), winner of the Pulitzer Prize; "On the Bus with Rosa Parks" (1999), a New York Times Notable Book of the Year; "Collected Poems 1974-2004" (2016); and, most recently, "Playlist from the Apocalypse: Poems" (2021). From 1993-1995, she served as the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. She was also appointed the Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2004-2006 and served as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Dove was the editor of "The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth-Century American Poetry" (2013) and guest editor of "Best American Poetry 2000," and she has served as The New York Times poetry editor and the editor for The Washington Post's "Poets Choice" feature. Her many honors include the American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for Poetry, the Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities, the Wallace Stevens Award, the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of Arts. In 2022 she received the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry (for lifetime achievement) from the Library of Congress. A member of the both the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Dove has been teaching at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville since 1989, where she is currently the Henry Hoyns Professor of Creative Writing.



Web Links to Books

- 01] <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/rita-dove/>
- 02] <https://time.com/collections/firsts/4883274/rita-dove-firsts/>
- 03] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/15201.Rita_Dove
- 04] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/7356/rita-dove/>
- 05] <https://wnorton.co.uk/search/contributors?page=2&q=Rita+Dove>
- 06] https://www.amazon.in/stores/Rita-Dove/author/B001H6NMYW?ref=ap_rdr&shoppingPortalEnabled=true

Academy of Achievement
<https://achievement.org/achiever/rita-dove/#profile>



INDUCTED IN 1994

“I didn’t know writers could be real live people, because I never knew any writers.”

Today, all Americans who love poetry may feel they know Rita Dove. In addition to her writing, and her television, theater and music projects, she holds the chair of Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia.

Her collection of poems, *Thomas and Beulah*, based on the lives of her grandparents, earned her the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. She is only the second African American to win this prize.

In 1993, she was appointed to a two-year term as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. She was the youngest person, and the first African American, to receive this highest official honor in American letters.

VIDEOS

01] Dean's Lecture Series: Poetry Reading by Rita Dove

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwqkxK8G0RQ> [1:43:50]

02] Rita Dove, "Playlist for the Apocalypse"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCp5vgoQJDw> [1:01:39]

In her first volume of new poems in twelve years, Rita Dove investigates the vacillating moral compass guiding America’s, and the world’s, experiments in democracy. Whether depicting the first Jewish ghetto in sixteenth-century Venice or Black Lives Matter, this extraordinary poet never fails to connect history’s grand exploits to the triumphs and tragedies of individual lives—the simmering resentment of an elevator operator, an octogenarian’s exuberant mambo, the mordant humor of a philosophizing cricket.

03] Rita Dove: Playlist for the Apocalypse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvwIFB21fA8> [1:08:17]

04] Rita Dove | Playlist for the Apocalypse: Poems

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-pFS4FDJFc> [54:05]

05] Rita Dove

<https://providenceathenaeum.org/media-archives/rita-dove/> [1:01:02]

06] Rita Dove: 2011 National Book Festival

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOnfsnKb-MY> [45:35]

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CHANG RAE LEE

(1965 ~ ~)

"A novel, even a social realist one, can't simply be a comprehensive rendering of what is. A novel requires a special angle or approach, whether in structure or language or theme, to justify itself."

Awards & Honour

Chang-rae Lee is a highly acclaimed American novelist known for his work in literature, having won numerous prestigious awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Key Awards & Honours

- **PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel (1996):** For *Native Speaker*.
- **Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award (1995):** For *Native Speaker*.
- **American Book Award (1996):** For *Native Speaker*.
- **Anisfield-Wolf Book Award (2000):** For *A Gesture Life*.
- **New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA) Book of the Year Award:** For *A Gesture Life*.
- **Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2006):** Adult Fiction category for *Aloft*.
- **Dayton Literary Peace Prize (2011):** For *The Surrendered*.
- **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Finalist (2011):** For *The Surrendered*.
- **National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist (2014):** For *On Such a Full Sea*.
- **John Dos Passos Prize for Literature (2017):**.
- **Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award:**.

Other Distinctions

- **New Yorker "20 Under 40":** Selected by the New Yorker as one of the twenty best writers under the age of forty.
- **Academic Positions:** Served as a professor of creative writing at Princeton University and currently holds the Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Professorship at Stanford University.

Bibliography

Books

- [*Native Speaker*](#) (Riverhead, 1994)
- [*A Gesture Life*](#) (Riverhead, 1999)
- *Aloft* (Riverhead, 2004)
- [*The Surrendered*](#) (Riverhead, 2010)
- [*On Such a Full Sea*](#) (Riverhead, 2014)
- *My Year Abroad* (2021)

Articles

- [*"The Faintest Echo of Our Language"*](#). *The New England Review*. **15** (3): 85–93. Summer 1993. doi:10.1056/NEJM183609140150601. JSTOR 40242683.
- [*"Coming Home Again"*](#). *The New Yorker*. October 9, 1995.
- [*"Gut Course: Manhattan"*](#). *The New Yorker*. **88** (38): 72–73. December 3, 2012.
- [*"Sea Urchin"*](#). *First Tastes*. August 19 & 26, 2002. *The New Yorker*. **97** (27): 39. September 6, 2021.

Screenplays

- [*Coming Home Again*](#) (co-written and directed by [Wayne Wang](#), 2019)
- [*Old Gold Mountain*](#) (TBA)



Web Links to Book

- 01] https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/21050.Chang_rae_Lee
- 02] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/230002/chang-rae-lee/>
- 03] https://www.amazon.in/Books-Chang-Rae-Lee/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AChang-Rae%2BLee
- 04] <https://www.bookseriesinorder.com/chang-rae-lee/>
- 05] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/21050.Chang_rae_Lee
- 06] <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/797017/a-tender-age-by-chang-rae-lee/>
- 07] <https://lithub.com/you-dont-always-have-to-talk-read-chang-rae-lees-best-writing-advice/>
- 08] <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/02/15/chang-rae-lee-lets-loose-in-my-year-abroad>

Stanford

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

<https://english.stanford.edu/people/chang-rae-lee>

Chang-rae Lee is the author of six novels: *Native Speaker* (1995), *A Gesture Life* (1999), *Aloft* (2004), *The Surrendered* (2010), which was a Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, *On Such a Full Sea* (2014) which was a Finalist for the NBCC and won the Heartland Fiction Prize, and his most recent novel, *My Year Abroad* (2021). His works have won numerous awards and citations, including the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, the American Book Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Literary Award, the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. In 2021, he was recognized for lifetime achievement in the Novel with an Award of Merit from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as elected as a Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. In 2025, Lee was elected to the membership of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Videos

01] Chang-rae Lee, Author of *My Year Abroad*, in Conversation with Ann Patchett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5xGDAkCOuk> [46:59]

02] Chang-rae Lee on His New Novel: 'It's Kind of a Crazy Book.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R84kxy-FY9M> [1:07:11]

03] Chang-Rae Lee "On Such a Full Sea"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePiJCYHuz8w> [40:57]

04] Chang-rae Lee: 2015 Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize for Fiction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdT1w9JCKFs> [56:29]

Chang-rae Lee has always been preoccupied with belonging. Beginning with his debut, "Native Speaker," and continuing with such extraordinary novels as "The Surrendered" and "A Gesture Life," he has explored the many ways one might negotiate the borders of country, culture, and community. With his latest, he leaves behind familiar landscapes and creates a world from scratch. "On Such a Full Sea" does what all of the best dystopic novels do – provides a space to consider how our current choices may propel us toward an uncertain, disheartening future. As the winner of this year's Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize for Fiction, Lee will share his perspective on writing and reading, and why storytelling remains a powerful tool for thinking about how we live with others. Jennifer Day joins him for a conversation.

05] *My Year Abroad*: Chang-rae Lee with Paul Yoon | LIVE from NYPL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQxAqFrYKU4> [1:02:08]

06] Live - MY YEAR ABROAD, Chang-rae Lee in conversation with Anton Discafani

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNCwpx1ixW4> [45:42]

07] The People's Tongue with Chang-rae Lee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwZQxce7Xsw> [57:29]



SHERMAN ALEXIE

(1966 ~ ~)

"In the middle of the night, when you're ambiguously ethnic, like me, when you're brown, beige, mauve, sienna, one of those lighter browns in the Crayola box. You have to be careful of the cops and robbers, because nobody's quite sure what you are, but everybody has assumptions."

Compiled by:

Pavithra S <::> Reg No. 253313111003

Awards & Honours

Sherman Alexie is a highly acclaimed author known for his powerful, often humorous explorations of Native American identity and urban life, earning major accolades like the [National Book Award](#) and [PEN/Faulkner Award](#). Key quotes from his work and career highlight themes of education, resilience, and the complexities of poverty.

Quotes on Awards, Writing, and Identity

- "If you care about something enough, it's going to make you cry. But you have to use it. Use your tears. Use your pain. Use your fear. Get mad. Arnold, get mad." — [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#)
- "I don't know what any individual should do about crossing her own borders. I only know that I live a happier, more adventurous life, by crossing borders."
- "If one reads enough books one has a fighting chance."
- "Sixty percent of all Indians live in urban areas, but nobody's writing about them...Very few of those we call Native American writers actually grew up on reservations, and yet most of their work is about reservations."

Awards and Honors

- **National Book Award for Young People's Literature** (2007) for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
- **PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction** (2010) for [War Dances](#).
- **PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction**.
- **PEN/Hemingway Citation for Best First Fiction** for [The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven](#).
- American Book Award



<https://www.arts.gov/stories/magazine/2013/4/inspiration-quotient-different-kind-iq/sherman-alexie>

SHERMAN ALEXIE

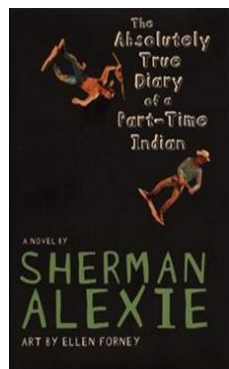
Plainspoken Inspiration

Interview by Rebecca Gross

According to poet, author, and filmmaker Sherman Alexie, "A lot of Native literature is really foo-foo nature crap, and it's written by Indians who don't even live that way." Alexie's own work, however, stays far away from the mythologized, spiritual stereotypes surrounding Native Americans, and focuses instead on the realities he grew up with on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Wellpinit, Washington, which ran thick with poverty, alcoholism, and hopelessness. In Alexie's hands however, these relentless heartbreaks are transformed into lyrical, moving portraits of contemporary Native life, which have garnered the writer a PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, a PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction, a National Book Award for Young People's Literature, and an NEA Literature Fellowship. We recently spoke with Alexie by phone to hear his thoughts on inspiration, and the role it plays in his creative practice.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Absolutely_True_Diary_of_a_Part-Time_Indian



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian is a [first-person narrative](#) novel by [Sherman Alexie](#), from the perspective of a Native American teenager, Arnold Spirit Jr., also known as "Junior," a 14-year-old promising [cartoonist](#). The book is about Junior's life on the [Spokane Indian Reservation](#) and his decision to go to a nearly all-[white](#) public high school away from the reservation. The graphic novel includes 65 comic illustrations that help further the plot.

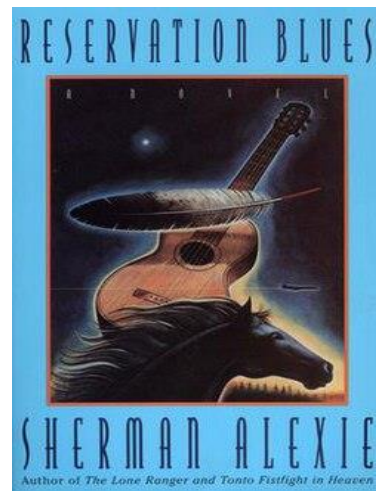
Although critically acclaimed, *The Absolutely True Diary* has also been the subject of [controversy](#) and has consistently appeared on the annual list of [frequently challenged books](#) since 2008, becoming the most frequently challenged book from 2010 to 2019.^[5] Controversy stems from how the novel describes [alcohol](#), poverty, [bullying](#), violence, [sexuality](#) and [bulimia](#). As a result, a small collective of schools have challenged it, and some schools have blocked the book from distribution in [school libraries](#) or inclusion in the curricula.

Reservation Blues

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reservation_Blues

Plot Summary

The novel follows the story of the rise and fall of Coyote Springs, a rock and blues band of Spokane Indians from the Spokane Reservation. In 1995, Thomas Builds-The-Fire, Junior Polatkin, and Victor Joseph, who also appear in Sherman Alexie's earlier short story collection The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, meet American blues musician Robert Johnson. Johnson had sold his soul to the devil in 1931 and claims to have faked his death seven years later. The three Spokane men start a band: Thomas Builds-The-Fire on bass and lead vocals, Junior Polatkin on drums, and Victor Joseph using Johnson's enchanted guitar; they are later joined by Chess and Checkers Warm Water, sisters from the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana.



KEY FACTS

Sherman Alexie (born 1966) is a renowned Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Native American author, poet, and filmmaker known for portraying reservation life with humor and raw honesty. A survivor of childhood hydrocephalus, he gained acclaim for The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven and the National Book Award-winning The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.

Key Facts about Sherman Alexie:

- **Early Life & Health:** Born in Spokane, Washington, he grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Wellpinit. He was born with hydrocephalus, underwent brain surgery at six months old, and suffered seizures throughout his youth.
- **Education & Writing:** He left the reservation to attend high school in Reardan, Washington, where he was the only Native American student. He attended Gonzaga University on a scholarship before graduating from Washington State University.
- **Literary Success:** He is a prolific author of poetry, short stories, and novels. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007) won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.
- **Film Work:** He wrote the screenplay for the acclaimed 1998 film Smoke Signals, which was based on his stories and won awards at the Sundance Film Festival.
- **Themes:** His work often explores themes of alcoholism, poverty, cultural identity, and contemporary Native American life with a mix of satire and pathos.

- **Awards & Controversy:** He has won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the PEN/Malamud Award, and the Carnegie Medal. In 2018, he faced allegations of sexual misconduct and subsequently declined his Carnegie Medal.
- **Sobriety & Career:** Following the publication of his first book, he overcame severe alcohol dependency, which he frequently references as a major turning point in his life.
- **Titles:** He is also known for [Reservation Blues](#), [Indian Killer](#), and his memoir, [You Don't Have to Say You Love Me](#).

Videos

01] Sherman Alexie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfDDhY7JWXo> [29:04]

02] Sherman Alexie on Living Outside Borders

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_F_jl3BE-k [39:18]

Born on a Native American reservation, Sherman Alexie has been navigating the cultural boundaries of American culture in lauded poetry, novels, short stories, screenplays, even stand-up comedy for over two decades. Alexie joins Bill to share his irreverent perspective on contemporary American life, and discuss the challenges of living in two different cultures at the same time, especially when one has so much dominance over the other

03] Sherman Alexie and Native American Poetry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suAgwNLMkOA> [26:42]

04] Has Literature Canceled Itself? Sherman Alexie on reading, writing, and book banning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUSn025F2cY> [1:09:26]

05] Books & Co. - Sherman Alexie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IZ59M26NKO> [26:37]

Host Alberto Rios, ASU Regents Professor of English, welcomes Sherman Alexie, poet, filmmaker and author of "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" and "War Dances." An Eight original production made possible by the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing.

06] UCSD Guestbook: Sherman Alexie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWolPAoDk3g> [27:39]

Rated R: Mature language and themes. Author, poet, screenwriter of "Smoke Signals" and satirist Sherman Alexie has been hailed as one of the most important writers of this generation. The New Yorker named him "one of the top 20 writers for the 21st Century." Alexie's most recent book is the acclaimed "The Toughest Indian in the World." Series: "UCSD Guestbook" [1/2002] [Humanities] [Show ID: 6190]

07] Sherman Alexie on Living Outside Borders

<https://vimeo.com/63878450> [39:18]

Annotated Timeline of The American Literary Development

Overview

1. Foundations: beginning of humanity until 1800
 - Native American beginning of time to 1600
 - Puritan/Colonial (1600-1750)
 - Rationalism (Revolutionary/Age of Reason) (1750-1800)
1. Romanticism - Gothic (1800-1860)
 - American Renaissance/ Transcendentalism (1840-1860)
1. Realism/ Naturalism (1855-1915)
2. The Moderns (1900-1950)
 - Harlem Renaissance/ Jazz Age (1920s)
1. Contemporary (1970s-Present)
 - Post-Modernism (1950 to present)

Native American Literature (dawn of humanity - 1600)

- OVERVIEW OF Native American PERIOD:
 - Oral and historical traditions,
 - creation stories,
 - culture/survival in North American environment
 - Considered the natural world as sacred
 - Importance of land and Place



*Some of the
earliest
forms of
American
literature...*

- Were pamphlets and writing extolling the benefits of the colonies to both a European and colonist audience.
- Captain John Smith could be considered the first American author with his works: *A True Relation of ... Virginia* (1608).



Puritan/Colonial Period (1600-1750)

- OVERVIEW OF PURITAN/COLONIAL PERIOD:
 - humankind as innately evil with emphasis on original sin
 - all truth and knowledge is credited to divine revelation
 - signs of damnation and evil in all events (poverty-laziness, sickness- moral laxness, etc.)
 - Doctrine of the Elect: predetermined which souls will be saved regardless of behavior- Puritan life could be extremely austere/harsh with intense effort to demonstrate oneself to be part of "the elect"
 - purpose of writing is to glorify God and see God's work in all human occurrences

Puritan Era



Puritan/Colonial Period (1600-1750)

- **Genre/Style** :Sermons, religious tracts, diaries, personal narratives, religious poems. It was written in plain style.
- **Effect/Aspects** :Instructive, reinforces authority of the Bible and the church. Very little imaginative literature was produced.
- **Historical Context** :Puritan settlers fled England where they were being persecuted for their religious beliefs, and came to New England to have religious freedom. Religious beliefs were too conservative and strict for acceptance in England.

Puritan/Colonial Period (1600-1750)

Literary and Cultural Legacy

Puritan literature is one seed of the American identity as it stresses self-reliance and overcoming hardship to achieve human perfection. It will often focus on the hardships the author has endured, praise for the Christian God, and descriptions how the author has emerged from that hardship to achieve a more complete understanding of Christian spirituality.

*American
Lit. in the
1600's –
1700's*



Anne
Bradstreet



Benjamin
Franklin



Thomas Paine



Puritan/Colonial Period (1650-1750)

- Anne Bradstreet

- The first published compilation of poems by an American was also the first American book to be published by a woman, Anne Bradstreet. Born and educated in England, Anne Bradstreet was the daughter of an earl's estate manager. She emigrated with her family when she was 18, and she lived in Boston.
- "The Prologue", investigates HR own ability, her role as a female poet.
- homesick imagination in her poem "Dialogue Between Old England and New" which emphasizes the relationship between the motherland and the at colonies as parental;

Living in a Puritan society, Bradstreet did not approve of the stereotypical idea that women were inferior to men during the 1600s. Women were expected to spend all their time cooking, cleaning, taking care of their children, and attending to their husband's every need. In her poem "In Honour of that High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy Memory," Bradstreet questions this belief.



Puritan/Colonial Period (1650-1750)

- Cotton Mather
 - No timeline of American colonial literature would be complete without mentioning Cotton Mather, the master scholar. Third in the four-generation Mather dynasty of Massachusetts Bay, he wrote at length of New England in over 500 books and pamphlets.

Rationalism (Revolutionary Period/Age of Reason) (1750–1800)

- Overview
- sees man, nature, and the universe as inherently good
- values reason over emotion, intuition, tradition, and established doctrine
- rejects tyranny, fascism, faith, divine revelation, and superstition
- concerned with the empirical world rather than life after death
- emphasizes self-knowledge and self-control
- wide range of subjects: philosophy, politics, science, and nature
- Deism common religious belief
- Responsible for initiating and sustaining American Revolution
- Inspired by the ideas of empiricist philosophers such as Aristotle and John Locke

Rationalism (Revolutionary Period/Age of Reason) (1750-1800)

- **Genre/Style** :Political Pamphlets, Travel Writing, and highly ornate persuasive writing.
 - formal, disciplined, and dense rhetorical prose
 - writing is crafted to be highly persuasive
 - produced almost no literary fiction or poetry
 - writers were highly intellectual and highly educated statesmen
- **Effect/Aspects** :Patriotism and pride grows, creates unity about issues, and creates American character.
- **Historical Context** :Encouraged Revolutionary War support.

Rationalism (Revolutionary Period/Age of Reason) (1750-1800)

- Cultural Legacy
 - “We hold these truths to be self-evident”- defining what is true and explaining how this truth can be realized
 - the fallibility of human senses means that information gathered through deduction and experimentation is more valid than what we perceive to be true



Revolutionary Period/Age of Reason (1750-1800)

- Washington Irving
 - He was the youngest of 11 children, born to a wealthy New York mercantile family. Washington Irving became a cultural and diplomatic ambassador to Europe, like Benjamin Franklin and Nathaniel Hawthorne. In spite of his talent, he probably would not have become a full-time professional writer, given the need of financial rewards, if a series of unexpected incidents had not forced him to write.



Revolutionary Period/Age of Reason (1750-1800)

- Benjamin Franklin(17Jan 1707- 17 April 1790)
 - Benjamin Franklin, "practical yet idealistic, hard-working and enormously successful," was a second-generation immigrant who lived in Boston Massachusetts. Writer, printer, publisher, scientist, philanthropist, and diplomat, Mr. Franklin was the most famous and respected private figure of his time. He was the first great self-made man in America, a poor democrat born in an aristocratic age that he helped to loosen up through his excellent example.

Benjamin Franklin



- One of the founding fathers of the U.S.A.
- His works, "Poor Richard's Almanac" and his own autobiography were recordings of his rise from a state of poverty and obscurity to wealth and fame.
- Some of the mottos we hear today came from him.

"Lost time is never found again."

"A penny saved is a penny earned."

"Fish and visitors stink in three days."

"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Thomas Paine



- Wrote a very powerful pamphlet entitled, "*Common Sense*," which virtually every rebel read. It was proportionally the all-time-best-selling American title which crystallized the rebellious demand for independence from Great Britain.
- His next work entitled, "*The American Crisis*" was a prerevolutionary pamphlet series that was so influential that John Adams said, "Without the pen of the author of *Common Sense*, the sword of Washington would have been raised in vain."

Romanticism (1800-1860)

- Overview of Romanticism
- Romanticism is a way of thinking that values the individual over the group, the subjective over the objective, and a person's emotional experience over reason. It also values the wildness of nature over human-made order. Romanticism as a worldview took hold in western Europe in the late 18th century, and American writers embraced it in the early 19th century.
- emphasizes a love of nature, celebrates the common man, and values country life (as ideals)
- Rationalists look to Aristotle's empiricism; Romantics look to Plato's idealism

Romanticism (1800-1860)

- Overview of Romanticism
- **Genre/Style** :Character Sketches, Slave Narratives, Poetry, and short stories.
 - introspective; focuses on what emotionally motivates the characters
 - the speaker and the poet are usually the same person
 - references mythology and cultural lore for thematic material
- **Effect/Aspects** :Integrity of nature and freedom of imagination.
- **Historical Context** :Removal from harsh realities of wilderness, create opportunity to idealize its innocence and ease (think frolicking in the woods to appreciate the flora and fauna as opposed to subjugating the harsh wilderness to farm and protect livestock) Publishing expands and industrial revolution brings new ideas, as well as relatively more "leisure time" to indulge in fiction/poetry/ philosophy away from the familial and small town moral confines.

Rationalism & Empiricism

Empiricism

- Knowledge is based on experience and experimentation.
- Experimental science is the paradigm of knowledge.
- Experience and experiment rarely, if ever, produce certainty.
- Some empiricists believe that mathematics can be certain.

Rationalism

- Knowledge is based on the use of reason or logic.
- Mathematics is the paradigm of knowledge.
- Genuine knowledge is certain.
- Relation to experience:
 - Experience does not produce certainty and does not conform to reason.
 - Thus, experience is at best second-class knowledge.

Romanticism (1800-1860)

- Literary and Cultural Legacy
- nature as the setting in which man could realize and develop his true self. R's believed that America's newly burgeoning urban cities contributed to the decay of morality and individuality. All aspects of nature, including the supernatural, part of an ideal natural setting. R's often focus on the excitement of the American landscape, most of which was wilderness in this period.

Gothic (dark Romanticism) (1800–1860)

- Overview of Gothic
 - humanity, nature, and the universe are neither innately good nor evil, but tip assuredly toward evil
 - rejects the optimistic superficiality of mainstream Romantic idealism
 - humans are not ideal creatures; they are flawed and tend toward darkness
 - uses mysticism to bridge the gap between this world and whatever looms beyond

Gothic (dark Romanticism) (1800-1860)

- **Genre/Style :**
 - themes focus principally upon man's appetite for darkness and mystical encounters with the sublime (that which inspires awe)
 - find literary art in the darkest most portentous human emotions: sadness, anxiety, depression, anger, revenge, monomania, fear, pain, loss, jealousy, hate, rage, and envy.
 - pushes back against several preceding movements- seeks to expose hypocrisy of Puritans and Rationalists' faith in reason over spirit. Relates to Transcendentalists' attempts to connect to a higher plane of existence, but unlike Transcendentalism which assumes an inherent goodness, G identifies with the inherent evil of all mankind and seeks to expose the "underbelly" of ostensibly solid, moral society.
- **Effect/Aspects:** elevated syntax, allusion, metaphor, simile, imagery, abstractions, common people in fantastical situations, elevated beautiful people

Gothic (dark Romanticism) (1800-1860)

- **Historical Context** :Publishing expands and industrial revolution brings new ideas, as well as relatively more “leisure time” to indulge in fiction/poetry/ philosophy away from the familial and small town moral confines. Sordid urban experience, corruption, and exploitation of IR.

Gothic (dark Romanticism) (1800-1860)

- Literary and Cultural Legacy
- No character is unflawed, and no situation is untouched by the corruption of the human mind, body, or spirit. Gothics see the world as dynamic, but out of the control of human characters who inevitably meet with failure when they attempt to affect change. The melancholy hero, also referred to as the “anti-hero” is an unlikely character who battles his own demons. Often, a misunderstood villain turns to his crime because he is lonely or rejected. The heroine may fall in love with the villain or reject him, eventually leading to destructive and self-destructive behavior.



Romanticism (1800-1860)

- Herman Melville
 - Herman Melville was a descendant of an old, wealthy family that fell suddenly into poverty upon the death of the father. In spite of his aristocratic upbringing, proud family traditions, and hard work, Melville found himself in poverty with no college education. At 19 he went to sea. His interest in sailors' lives grew naturally out of his own experiences, and most of his early novels grew out of his voyages. In these we see the young Melville's wide, democratic experience and hatred of tyranny and injustice.



Romanticism (1800-1860)

- Edgar Allan Poe
 - Edgar Allan Poe was a southerner with a darkly metaphysical vision mixed with elements of realism, parody, and burlesque. He refined the short story genre and created detective fiction. Many of his stories foreshadow the genres of science fiction, horror, and fantasy so popular today.

American Renaissance/ Transcendentalism (1840- 1860)

- Overview of American Renaissance/Transcendentalism
 - explores a deep mystical connection between man, nature, and the soul
 - goal of human life is to transcend the artificiality of society and the senses to experience divinity in nature and within ourselves
 - rejects Rationalists' empiricism and the Puritan's religious dogma
 - champions liberal causes such as women's suffrage and abolitionism
 - most knew each other and lived in Concord, Massachusetts
 - intuition transcends the empirical world and unifies with nature
 - views nature, God, and the collective human soul as a single entity
 - Man is not only good, he is divine and part of God's essence
 - aspired toward utopian societies
 - valued simplicity, intuition, self-reliance, and closeness to nature

American Renaissance/ Transcendentalism (1840- 1860)

- *Genre/Style* :philosophy, non-fiction, political tracts/essays related to simplicity, individualism, self-reliance, transcendence
- *Effect/Aspects* :anecdote, metaphor, detail, analogy
- *Historical Context* :Philosophically closer to Romantics but stylistically closer to Rationalists. Followed the beliefs of Emmanuel Kant in thinking one could transcend the bonds of human existence.

American Renaissance/ Transcendentalism (1840- 1860)

- Literary and Cultural Legacy
 - An American ideal of "returning to nature and achieving a 'transparent' or transcendent state"
 - essays of personal experience in nature as means to higher philosophical conversation
 - mystical eradication of individual self and become one with nature (God, nature, humanity)



American Renaissance/ Transcendentalism (1840- 1860)

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
 - One of the most important Boston Brahmin poets was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow, a professor of modern languages at Harvard, was the best-known American poet of his day. He was responsible for the misty, historical, legendary sense of the past that joined American and European traditions.



American Renaissance/ Transcendentalism (1840- 1860)

- Walt Whitman
 - Born on Long Island, New York, Walt Whitman was a part-time carpenter, whose brilliant, pioneering work expressed the country's democratic spirit. Whitman was mostly self-taught, he left school at the age of 11 to go to work. *His Leaves of Grass* (1855), which he rewrote and revised throughout his life, contains "Song of Myself," the most amazingly original poem ever written by an American.

Realism (1855-1900)

- Overview of Realism
 - Influenced by large changes in American society, like the Civil War, Industrial Revolution and the Great Migration
 - new seriousness of focus, loss of life in Civil War

Realism (1855-1900)

- **Genre/Style** : Novels, Short Stories, Objective Narrator, and does not tell reader how to interpret the story.
- **Effect/Aspects** : Social and Aesthetic realism, a yearning for a return to reality and ordinary life.
 - a new seriousness of focus, new objective and impartial focus : truth, reality, and accuracy of the utmost importance
 - rejected Romantic ideas of beauty and the sublime in favor of authenticity and actuality
- **Historical Context** : Civil War brought demand for a more true type of literature, a language that could encompass the pain and very real violence people experienced.

Realism (1855-1900)

- Literary and Cultural legacy
 - produced writers who are seen as the first “American” novelists
 - associated with a movement called “local color” when people attempted to capture the dialect, customs, culture, and geography of specific areas
 - (Local color writers tended to write entirely with rural settings-realists not as much)
 - character rather than plot driven narrative - the character and morals of the characters most important to determining plot and consequences of actions
 - emphasis on “common man” “everyman”

Naturalism (1855-1900)

- Overview
 - scientifically-motivated literary movement
 - outgrowth of Realism, but eschewed artistic strategies in favor of scientific analysis, creating a bleaker take on realism
 - heavily focused on social problems and the larger natural, biological, and psychological forces that create those problems
 - Reaction against Romanticism in that naturalism viewed all of humanity's actions as predetermined by inanimate scientific forces
 - rejection of the idea of free will and emphasis on idea of determinism (all events determined by causes external to the will)

Naturalism (1855-1900)

- Overview
 - Naturalism, like Realism, developed out of the turmoil of the Civil War and the immediate postwar years. However, while Realism sought to give a truthful, objective account of everyday life, Naturalism took that approach one step further by emphasizing the impersonal scientific forces that cause all events in the world.

Naturalism (1855-1900)

- Naturalist writers often relied on the use of environmental forces like storms or the sea to convey their message of the power of nature over man
- characters often born into poverty, childhood and environment are often portrayed as having irreversible effects on characters
- fate and chance rather than free will (as Realists preferred)
- rationality downplayed in favor of passions like greed, lust, desire for power that overwhelm and deprive choice and agency



Realism (1855-1900)

- Mark Twain
 - Samuel Clemens, also known by his pen name of Mark Twain, grew up in the Mississippi River frontier town of Hannibal, Missouri. Ernest Hemingway's well-known statement, that all of American literature comes from one great book: Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; shows Twain's high place in the tradition. Twain's style, based on strong, realistic, everyday American speech, gave American writers a new appreciation for their national voice. Twain was the first major author to come from the heart of the country, and he captured its distinctive and humorous slang and iconoclasm.



Realism (1855-1900)

- Jack London
 - Jack London was a poor, self-taught worker from California. He, also a naturalist, became instantly famous from his first collection of stories, *The Son of the Wolf* (1900), set mainly in the Klondike region of Alaska and the Canadian Yukon.

The Moderns (1915-1945)

- Overview of The Moderns
 - Overall sense of disillusionment, loss of faith in humanity, and conviction that civilization is disintegrating
 - reaction to the general crisis brought on by WWI

The Moderns (1900-1945)

- **Genre/Style** : Novels, Plays, Poetry, experiments in writing styles, interior monologue, and stream of consciousness (as means to "truth" of the individual), "newness", fragmentation/non-linear narratives, sensory imagery and importance of language
- **Effect/Aspects** : Pursuit of American Dream, Admiration for America vs. abuse of authority, Pessimism and Optimism, and Individual Importance. belief that art can be isolated from everything, including society, culture, and environment.
 - break from previous literary norms and customs (parallel to break with belief in the necessity, supremacy, efficacy of tradition and social norms)
 - flawed characters, relatable and human, dismantle traditional ideas of gender roles, sexuality, "place" in society

The Moderns (1900-1945)

- **Historical Context** :Writers reflected the ideas of Darwin and Karl Marx, during WWI and WWII. The Russian Revolution, World War I, the Great Depression, and the effects of Charles Darwin *On the Origin of Species* changed everything. Scientific and technological innovations happened at previously unimagined rates and introduced possibilities before unimaginable, bringing about a rapid transformation of society. Increasing confidence in Freud, Jung, and psychotherapy interplay with literary efforts towards character, inner world, human archetypes, and search for individual truth.

The Moderns (1900-1945)

- Literary and Cultural Legacy (this one's for you Eric)
 - The Existential Crisis
 - viewed modernity as something of a crisis and much of the writing reflects this concern
 - » sense of disillusionment with the new world order and to lament for parts of the old world believed to be lost
 - » feelings of disassociation with cultural framework
 - » search for truth or meaning
 - » truth is impossible, only meaning is the journey (existence) itself
 - » absolute truth a lie (or at least intangible) each must find personal concept of truth (makes way for post-moderns)



The Moderns (1900-1950)

- T.S. Eliot
 - Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a wealthy family with ancestry in the northeastern United States. He received the best education of any major American writer of his generation at Harvard College, the Sorbonne, and Merton College of Oxford University. He studied Sanskrit and Oriental philosophy, which influenced his poetry.



The Moderns (1900-1950)

- Ernest Hemingway
 - Ernest Hemingway came from the Midwest United States. He was Born in Illinois and spent childhood vacations in Michigan on hunting and fishing trips. He volunteered for an ambulance unit in France during World War I, but was wounded and hospitalized for six months. After the war, working as a war correspondent based in Paris, he met expatriate American writers Sherwood Anderson, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein. Stein, in particular, influenced his spare style.

Jazz Age (1920s)

- Overview of Jazz Age and “The Lost Generation”
- **Effect/Aspects** :more permissive attitude in France allowed exploration of radical Modernist ideas without fear of ridicule or retaliation
- **Historical Context** :brief, decade-long blip of optimism, new era of prosperity began in the U.S. and Americans took full advantage. Paris was the epicenter of literary life and many American took advantage: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein

Harlem Renaissance (1920s)

- Overview of Harlem Renaissance
- **Genre/Style** :Blues Song in Poetry and African American Spirituals.
- **Effect/Aspects** :Brought about Gospel Music.
- **Historical Context** :Mass African American Migration to Northern Urban Centers. African Americans are given more access to media and publishing. Dissatisfaction with previous American values created opportunity for more voices to be heard, and Americans were interested in learning from each other in arts, literature, and culture. People who had fought for the country in WWI also felt a sense of belonging and ownership that gave them confidence to press for a voice, recognition, and presence in "A"merican identity

Harlem Renaissance (1920s)

- Ralph Waldo Ellison
 - Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Ellison achieved international recognition for his first novel, *Invisible Man* (1952). He was influenced by his thinking of the United States as a land of "infinite possibilities." He attended the Tuskegee institute to pursue a career in music but found that he was more interested in writing.



Harlem Renaissance (1920s)

- Jessie Redmon Fauset
 - Ms Fauset was the literary editor of the magazine *Crisis*. She edited and contributed regularly to *The Brownies Book* which was the children's version of the *Crisis*.

Contemporary Period (1940s–Present)

- Overview of Contemporary Period
- **Genre/Style** : Narrative, fiction, nonfiction, anti heroes, emotional, irony, storytelling, autobiographical, and essays.
- **Effect/Aspects** : Shift in emphasis from homogeneity to celebrating diversity.
- **Historical Context** : New century, new millennium.

Post-Modernism (1950 to present)

- Overview of Post Modernism
- **Genre/Style** :Mixing of fantasy with nonfiction blurred lines of reality for reader, there were no heroes, humorless, narratives, present tense, and magic realism.
- **Effect/Aspects** :Grinds down the distinctions between the classes of people.
- **Historical Context** :After WWII prosperity.



Post-Modernism (1950 to present)

- Robert Creeley
 - Robert Creeley was one of the Black Mountain poets. He wrote with a short, minimalist style.



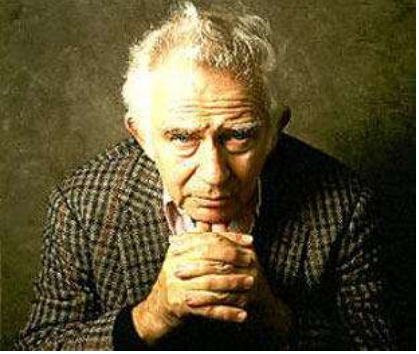
Post-Modernism (1950 to present)

- James Dickey
 - James Dickey was a novelist, essayist, and poet. He was born in Georgia and much of his writing is about nature.

Contemporary Period (1940s-Present)

- John Gardner

Gardner, formerly from a farming background, was the most important representative for ethical standards in literature until his death. He was a professor of English who specialized in the medieval period.



Contemporary Period (1940s-Present)

- Norman Mailer
 - Mailer has been generally considered the representative author of modern times, being able to change his style and subject multiple times. He follows the traditions of Ernest Hemingway.

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A Brief Overview of American Literary Periods

From the Colonial to the Contemporary

{<https://www.thoughtco.com/american-literary-periods-741872>}

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American literature does not easily lend itself to classification by time period. Given the size of the United States and its varied population, there are often several literary movements happening at the same time. However, this hasn't stopped literary scholars from making an attempt. Here are some of the most commonly agreed upon periods of American literature from the colonial period to the present.

The Colonial Period (1607–1775)

This period encompasses the founding of [Jamestown](#) up to a decade before the Revolutionary War. The majority of writings were historical, practical, or religious in nature. Some writers not to miss from this period include Phillis Wheatley, Cotton Mather, William Bradford, Anne Bradstreet, and John Winthrop. The first account of an enslaved African person, "A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings, and Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon, a Negro Man," was published during this period, in 1760 Boston.

The Revolutionary Age (1765–1790)

Beginning a decade before the Revolutionary War and ending about 25 years later, this period includes the writings of Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, James Madison, and [Alexander Hamilton](#). This is arguably the richest period of political writing since classical antiquity. Important works include the "Declaration of Independence," "The Federalist Papers," and the poetry of Joel Barlow and Philip Freneau.

The Early National Period (1775–1828)

This era in American literature is responsible for notable first works, such as the first American comedy written for the stage—"The Contrast" by Royall Tyler, written in 1787—and the first American Novel—"The Power of Sympathy" by William Hill, written in 1789. Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and Charles

Brockden Brown are credited with creating distinctly American fiction, while Edgar Allan Poe and William Cullen Bryant began writing poetry that was markedly different from that of the English tradition.

The American Renaissance (1828–1865)

Also known as the [Romantic Period](#) in America and the Age of Transcendentalism, this period is commonly accepted to be the greatest of American literature. Major writers include Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, and Herman Melville. Emerson, Thoreau, and Margaret Fuller are credited with shaping the literature and ideals of many later writers. Other major contributions include the poetry of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and the short stories of Melville, Poe, Hawthorne, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Additionally, this era is the inauguration point of American literary criticism, lead by Poe, James Russell Lowell, and William Gilmore Simms. The years 1853 and 1859 brought the first novels written by African American authors, both male and female: "Clotel," by William Wells Brown and "Our Nig," by Harriet E. Wilson.

The Realistic Period (1865–1900)

As a result of the American Civil War, Reconstruction and the age of industrialism, American ideals and self-awareness changed in profound ways, and American literature responded. Certain romantic notions of the American Renaissance were replaced by realistic descriptions of American life, such as those represented in the works of William Dean Howells, Henry James, and [Mark Twain](#). This period also gave rise to regional writing, such as the works of Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, Bret Harte, Mary Wilkins Freeman, and George W. Cable. In addition to Walt Whitman, another master poet, Emily Dickinson, appeared at this time.

The Naturalist Period (1900–1914)

This relatively short period is defined by its insistence on recreating life as life really is, even more so than the realists had been doing in the decades before. American Naturalist writers such as Frank Norris, Theodore Dreiser, and [Jack London](#) created some of the most powerfully raw novels in American literary history. Their characters are victims who fall prey to their own base instincts and to economic and sociological factors. Edith Wharton wrote some of

her most beloved classics, such as "The Custom of the Country" (1913), "Ethan Frome" (1911), and "The House of Mirth" (1905) during this time period.

The Modern Period (1914–1939)

After the American Renaissance, the Modern Period is the second most influential and artistically rich age of American writing. Its major writers include such powerhouse poets as E.E. Cummings, Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Marianne Moore, Langston Hughes, Carl Sandburg, T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, and Edna St. Vincent Millay. Novelists and other prose writers of the time include [Willa Cather](#), John Dos Passos, Edith Wharton, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Gertrude Stein, Sinclair Lewis, Thomas Wolfe, and Sherwood Anderson. The Modern Period contains within it certain major movements including the Jazz Age, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Lost Generation. Many of these writers were influenced by World War I and the disillusionment that followed, especially the expatriates of the Lost Generation. Furthermore, the [Great Depression](#) and the New Deal resulted in some of America's greatest social issue writing, such as the novels of Faulkner and Steinbeck, and the drama of Eugene O'Neill.

The Beat Generation (1944–1962)

Beat writers, such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, were devoted to **anti**-traditional literature, in poetry and prose, and anti-establishment politics. This time period saw a rise in confessional poetry and sexuality in literature, which resulted in legal challenges and debates over censorship in America. William S. Burroughs and Henry Miller are two writers whose works faced censorship challenges. These two greats, along with other writers of the time, also inspired the counterculture movements of the next two decades.

The Contemporary Period (1939–Present)

After World War II, American literature has become broad and varied in terms of theme, mode, and purpose. Currently, there is little consensus as to how to go about classifying the last 80 years into periods or movements—more time must pass, perhaps, before scholars can make these determinations. That being said, there are a number of important writers since 1939 whose works may already be considered "classic" and who are likely to become

canonized. Some of these very established names are: Kurt Vonnegut, Amy Tan, John Updike, Eudora Welty, James Baldwin, Sylvia Plath, Arthur Miller, Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, Joan Didion, Thomas Pynchon, Elizabeth Bishop, Tennessee Williams, Philip Roth, Sandra Cisneros, Richard Wright, Tony Kushner, Adrienne Rich, Bernard Malamud, Saul Bellow, Joyce Carol Oates, Thornton Wilder, Alice Walker, Edward Albee, Norman Mailer, John Barth, Maya Angelou, and Robert Penn Warren.

A Look at the American Literary Movements

{<https://online.eou.edu/resources/article/a-look-at-the-american-literary-movements/>}

The United States may be a relatively young country by global standards, but American literary history stretches back centuries. Let's take a dive into the history of the main American literary movements and what they say about the characteristics of American literature.

Native American Literature

Long before the arrival of Europeans in the Americas, native people had their own rich culture. The Native American literary tradition comprises oral tradition, folktales, creation stories and other myths that survive in the traditions and stories told by modern-day Native Americans.

One common element in these stories is repetition of incidents in a culturally significant number, usually four (the cardinal directions) or seven (the cardinal directions plus skyward, earthward and center). These stories were told and retold by generations of storytellers across the many tribes, and the stories vary in the telling not just from storyteller to storyteller and tribe to tribe, but even across multiple tellings by the same narrator.

In the 1700s, the Reverend Samson Occom, a member of the Mohegan nation, was among the first Native Americans to publish writings in English. At the beginning of the 20th century, Zitkála-Šá, a Yankton Dakota writer, musician and activist, collected and published legends drawn from Native cultures for a widespread white, English-speaking readership — along with personal stories that explored her struggles with cultural identity and the tension between traditional and assimilation. Another iconic writer of the early 20th century was Charles Eastman, considered the first to write American history from the Native American point of view.

Beginning in the late 1960s, the Native American Renaissance saw a surge of Native American literature, including authors like James Welch and Paula Gunn Allen. Contemporary Native writers such as Eden Robinson and Sherman Alexie continue to be vital voices in the American literary tradition.

Colonial Literature 1600s-1700s

As the English colonies were established in the 17th century, the topics of literature among the colonists reflected their historical context. The earliest English works from the colonies ranged from practical accounts of colonial history and life written by leaders such as John Smith, to Anne Bradstreet's *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*, likely the first collection of poetry written in and about America.

Since many of the colonies were founded due to religious divisions back in Great Britain, it should be no surprise that religious themes were common. Such works ranged from the Puritan writings of ministers such as Increase Mather, to Roger Williams' arguments for separation of church and state, and even the anti-religious *New English Canaan* by Thomas Morton — a harsh critique of the Puritans' customs and power structures.

Enlightenment and Revolution Mid- to Late 1700s

In the years surrounding the American Revolution, literature likewise shifted to encompass the patriotic spirit that drove the nation toward independence. The iconic *Federalist Papers* in the realm of politics were matched by works by other authors in the realm of science and philosophy, such as Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason*.

1789 saw the publication of *The Power of Sympathy* by William Hill Brown. Widely recognized as the first American novel, Brown's work was a cautionary tale about the dangers of seduction, advocating for rational thinking and moral education of women. Given its historical context, critics have viewed *The Power of Sympathy* as an exploration of virtues most needed by the new nation.

American Gothic: Early 1800s-present

Not to be confused with the famous painting by Grant Wood, American Gothic literature draws on dark themes from the nation's historical and contemporary challenges. The early Gothic writers drew on frontier anxiety and fear of the unknown; Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (1820) is perhaps the most famous example.

As the nation grew and matured, the Gothic tradition matured with it, through the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe and others. Southern Gothic writers used the decaying plantations of the post-Civil War South in place of the castles of European Gothic literature, as in the works of William Faulkner. The contemporary works of authors like Stephen King, who draws on his own experiences in rural Maine in his stories, continue the long American Gothic tradition.

Romanticism and Transcendentalism 1820s-1850s

The romantic era began in Europe in the eighteenth century, but it arrived in America later, around 1820. American romantic writers explored themes of individualism, intuitive perception and the inherent goodness of the natural world. Among the best known American romantic novels are Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), a dramatic story of a woman cast out of a Puritan community for committing adultery; and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851), one of history's most famous stories of man against the elements.

Emerging from romanticism later in the 1800s was perhaps the first notable American intellectual movement, transcendentalism, built on the belief in the inherent goodness of people, and the idea that self-reliance, transcending the corrupting influence of society, unlocks that goodness. We see these ideas in the works of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller and others. Perhaps the best-known transcendentalist book was Thoreau's *Walden*, a reflection on his experience living independently near Walden Pond.

Since transcendental literature was in many respects the opposite of American Gothic, it should come as no surprise that prominent Gothic writers also penned critiques of transcendentalism, such as Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance*.

Literary Realism, Naturalism and Modernism 1860s-1940s

Following the Civil War, American literature was marked by a deep skepticism, understandable given the historical context. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, American literary realism, in the works of Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and others, was marked by attempts to present realistic things as they are, without supernatural or speculative elements. Twain's vigorous, colloquial style in works such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was a shot across the bow at tired conventions. American naturalism, heavily influenced by the works of Frank Norris, stood in the middle ground between romanticism and realism; for instance, Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*, a naturalistic depiction of a group of shipwreck survivors, explores themes of the indifference of the universe.

From the same current as realism, literature progressed to American modernism in the interwar period, with some of the most famous works penned by the "Lost Generation" of expatriate writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Modernist works drew from the pain and loss of direction that this generation experienced in the wake of World War One, but it also contained themes of hope as individuals could change their surroundings.

Contemporary & Postmodern Literature 1950s-present

The postwar period saw the rise of a whole spectrum of innovative and subversive themes in literature, from the overtly counter-cultural works of the 1950s "Beat

Generation" to John Updike's reflective explorations of faith, personal turmoil and sensuality. Sexually frank content entered the mainstream in this period, as restrictions on obscenity were loosened and writers were empowered to speak freely about previously taboo topics.

Over the last several decades, American literature has seen an explosion of postmodernist themes such as unreliable narrators, internal monologue and temporal distortion. Contemporary writers have used literature to critique American culture, find connections across time and place and explore themes such as pluralism, relativism and self-consciousness.

